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Amma's Government will always be a fortress protecting women and children
– Hon'ble Chief Minister

September 5 - Teacher's Day

'Teachers impart not only Education but also character, self-confidence'

Teacher's Day Greetings of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
(English Translation).

With the lofty ideal of creating an educated society, the great philosopher Dr.S.Radhakrishnan, who began his career as a teacher, rose to the position of the President of India. To honour his services, his birthday on September 5th is celebrated every year as Teachers Day throughout the country.

Saint Poet Avvaiyar says in 'Kondrai Vendan' that, numeracy and literacy are like a person's two eyes. To stress the importance of education, Avvaiyar says that education is as important as the sight of a person. In our tradition, those who impart education are equated to God.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, which is treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, honours teachers who dedicate their services for the cause of education, with the Dr.Radhakrishnan Award. Those who provide the best education to students by using computers, excel in student enrolment and in school management are honoured with 'Dream Teacher Award' by the State Government.

On Teachers Day, I extend my heartiest greetings to teachers, who apart from imparting precious education to students, considered the future pillars of the country, instil character, self-confidence and perseverance in them, to create a knowledge-based society.

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"Through the Chief Minister's Help Desk and Integrated Grievance Redressal System, petitions are scrutinized immediately and solutions found"

- Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** while travelling from Tiruvarur to Thanjavur, saw a few women engaged in farming works in the paddy fields at Adhanur village near Kovilvenni in Thiruvarur District. He got down from the car and after distributing face masks, interacted with them.

Amendments to Indian Penal Code sought

Hon'ble Amma's Government will always be a fortress of protection to women and children

Statement of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 16.09.2020 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was a personality who safeguarded the welfare of women and children and formulated and implemented many pioneering schemes for ensuring their rights and safety.

The following historic schemes are being implemented:

- ✶ Girl child protection scheme to ensure balanced sex ratio in Districts in Tamil Nadu.
- ✶ Cradle Baby scheme to eliminate female infanticide.
- ✶ Marriage assistance scheme with gold for 'thali' to encourage girls to take to higher education and to help the marriage of girls of indigent parents and orphaned girls.
- ✶ Government Service Homes for the safe accommodation of orphaned women and deserted wives.
- ✶ Amma Two-wheeler scheme to provide subsidy to working women purchasing two-wheeler vehicles.
- ✶ To protect women's rights and eliminate atrocities against women, Hon'ble Amma took the pioneering step of forming All-Women Police Stations in 1992. Hon'ble Amma also ordered the setting up of Fast Track Courts in every District to hear cases of crimes against women.
- ✶ A separate unit, Crime Against Women and Children Unit, the first of its kind in the whole country, was set up by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government on 06.03.2019 and it is functioning in an excellent manner.

- To prevent crimes against women and children and take immediate action, several units have been created like the Investigative Unit for Crime Against Women (IUCAW), Special Juvenile Unit (SJU), Dowry Prevention Unit and Anti Child Trafficking Unit (ACTU) and they are in operation.
- Vehicles fitted with modern equipment have been given to all the 35 police stations in the Greater Chennai Police limits. Patrolling of streets is undertaken through 'Amma Patrol' Vehicles, provided under the Nirbhaya Fund. Besides preventing crimes against women and children, these vehicles are also engaged in awareness campaigns to safeguard them from getting addicted to drugs and to prevent child marriage.
- Goondas Act is invoked to arrest habitual offenders against women and children.
- Also, communication services like Kavalan app , Women Helpline 181 and Child Helpline 1098, set up to ensure the safety of women and children, have been activated in an excellent manner and crimes have been largely prevented.
- To further ensure the safety of women and children, Hon'ble Amma's Government will take steps to bring about, with the approval of the Central Government, the following amendments to the Indian Penal Code of 1860 to make the punishment for crimes against women and children more stringent:

1) The present sentence of a minimum of 7 years imprisonment for dowry deaths under Sec.304-B, to be enhanced to a minimum of 10 years.

2) Three years minimum imprisonment, awarded at present under Sec. 354-B for actions against women with a criminal intent (disrobing women) to be enhanced to a minimum of 5 years and the maximum of 5 years imprisonment to be made more severe and hiked to 10 years.

3) Imprisonment up to 5 years, at present given under Sec. 354-D for the second and subsequent stalking of women with criminal intent is to be enhanced to a maximum of 7 years.

4) A minimum of 7 years imprisonment and a maximum of life imprisonment will be recommended to the Central Government in the place of the present punishment of imprisonment up to a maximum of 10 years under Sections 372 and 373 respectively for sale and purchase of persons below 18 years of age for prostitution.

I affirm that Hon'ble Amma's Government will ever remain as a fortress and safeguard women and children. ■

New university at Villupuram by bifurcating Thiruvalluvar University

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110, on 16.09.2020 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

"All people should get all things; scarcity should become scarce here"

– on the lines of this song, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma gave greater importance to higher education in Tamil Nadu and started many government colleges - Arts and Science, Polytechnic, Engineering - and other Institutions of higher education.

Hon'ble Amma's Government, which functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, also continues to create many higher educational institutions and upgrade the infrastructure of many such institutions. As a result of this, the dream of students of poor families in villages and hamlets for higher education has come true. I am proud to state that, this has boosted student enrolment in higher education to the high level of 49 per cent in Tamil Nadu against the All India average of 26.3 per cent.

Endorsing the request of the Hon'ble Minister for Law and the long pending demand of the people of Villupuram, a new university will be created with Villupuram as headquarters by bifurcating the Thiruvalluvar University into two. I am happy to state that this university will start functioning in the current year itself.

Greatness and Eminence

A great man is different from an eminent one in that
he is ready to be the servant of society.

B.R. Ambedkar

Integrated and inclusive platform for quick redressal of public grievances

Statement of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,
in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly
under Rule 110 on 15.09.2020
(English Translation).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

At present, different Government Departments have created their own, separate and exclusive grievance redressal centres and websites and they are all active. At the District level, petitions are received every Monday on people's Grievance Day, on the monthly 'Manu Needhi' Day and on Fishermen Grievances Redressal Day and in respect of Amma's schemes, on Pensioners Grievance Redressal Day and the like. At the State level, petitions are received through the Chief Minister's Special Cell, Toll free no.1100 (Amma Azhaippu Mayyam) etc. and solutions are found.

This makes a person present petitions in many places; also, it is seen that the same grievance petition is presented both at the District and State levels. Hence, it has become necessary to integrate all the redressal bodies functioning under the Departments of the Government of Tamil Nadu and develop an efficient system to monitor the resolution of grievances speedily. Realizing the necessity for a grievance redressal management system for quick resolution of grievances of people after immediate registration of their grievances, the government proposes to implement a scheme - 'Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance CM Helpline Management System' (IIPGCMS).

This scheme will be implemented in the first phase through the Information Technology Department at a cost of Rs.12.78 crore. Initially, it will act as a Helpline Centre with 100 seats to be expanded as per needs. The majority of petitions received either in grievance redressal camps or in Net portal or directly by Government officials, seek employment. Taking this into account, such petitions received in this centre will be examined immediately by the Departments concerned and steps will be taken to provide an appropriate job, if need be, by giving the petitioner skill development training.

This scheme facilitates a petitioner to upload grievances concerning many Government Departments through one portal. These petitions, I am happy to inform, will be examined immediately through the 'Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance CM Helpline Management System' and solutions will be found speedily. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister promises Jerthalav canal to boost water table for the benefit of farmers

Excerpts from the Presidential speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and containment of COVID-19 in Dharmapuri District, at District Collectorate on 20.08.2020 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education and Members of Legislature requested implementation of schemes to provide irrigational facilities to farmers in parched areas. Hon'ble Amma's Government has acceded particularly to the request of digging the Jerthalav canal for boosting the ground water table to benefit the farmers and the scheme will be implemented.

For the proposed acquisition of patta land for this scheme under the new Land Acquisition Act of 2013, orders have been issued to 7 villages to commence talks with land owners, through the District-level private land acquisition negotiating committee. Hon'ble Amma's Government has started the land acquisition work. Likewise, for the implementation of the Ennekol Canal Scheme, it is proposed to acquire land in Elumichana Halli village, Karimangalam Taluk and talks are going on between the land-owners and the negotiating committee. After the acquisition of

lands, the required funds will be allotted and Hon'ble Amma's Government will realize the dream of farmers.

Hon'ble Amma while alive and now Hon'ble Amma's Government have created a number of colleges for the higher education of students. New buildings have been constructed for the Government Arts and Science Colleges in this District.

The request of the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education for a Government law college was conceded, an allotment of Rs.58 crore was made for construction of buildings and works had commenced; in another 3 months, the college will be put to use.

Works on the Rs.8 crore Harur bypass road have been completed; the widening of the Hogenakkal- Pennagaram-Dharmapuri Tirupattur road from a two-lane to 4-lane traffic road at a cost of Rs.25 crore has been completed; works on widening the Salem-Tirupattur-Vaniyambadi road from a two-lane to 4-lane traffic road at a cost of Rs.297.55 crore are going on. Construction of 3 flyovers in Dharmapuri District under the NABARD assistance scheme for the year 2019-2020, at a cost of Rs.18.27 crore is going on. The Government is examining a proposal to construct 3 more flyovers under the NABARD assistance scheme for the year 2020-2021, at an estimate of Rs.10.06 crore. Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes like these in Dharmapuri District.

News in Picture

Development works of Dharmapuri District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami** distributed Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries at a function held at District Collectorate, Dhamapuri on 20.08.2020. Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan, MLAs, Dharmapuri District Collector Tmt. S. Malarvizhi I.A.S., and other high officials of the Government were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Minister declares open second High Tech State Data Centre

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tami Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 07.09.2020, declared open the State's second, high tech State Data Centre at the Tamil Nadu ELCOT Complex at Perungudi, set up at a cost of Rs. 74.69 crore, through video conferencing. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, on the occasion, launched the Computer Emergency Response Team's (CERT-TN) internet portal: https//cert.tn.gov.in as a mark of implementing the first phase of the Cyber Security Architecture – TN.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had made a statement in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110, that at a time when the Government Departments want to provide more e-Governance services to the general public, the present infrastructure facilities at the Tamil Nadu Data Centre are not sufficient to meet the demand. To meet the increasing Information infrastructure demands of the Government Departments, it has been decided to set up a second State Data Centre.

As per the announcement, the high tech second State Data Centre, set up at a cost of Rs. 74.69 crore at the ELCOT complex in Perungudi, was declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Data Centre has 195 server racks. This Centre will safely maintain the data of the Tamil Government's software requirements and other services and utilize them. Again, this new Data Centre will provide the internet services Government to Government (G2G), Government to

Citizen (G2C) and Government to Business (G2B) and also meet the increasing Information Technology demands.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, in a statement in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 01.06.2018 said that the Government of Tamil Nadu will set up Cyber Security Architecture for Tamil Nadu (CSA-TN) through ELCOT at a cost of Rs. 21.38 crore to protect the e-Governance services of the Government from threats, besides providing safe and interruption-free services.

As a first phase of implementing the CSA-TN scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the internet portal, https//cert.in.gov.in developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing Technology (C-DAC) and implemented by the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-TN).

CERT-TN will be a rapid answer team for the Computer network of the Government of Tamil Nadu. In all Government Departments, the team will play a major role in auditing, protecting and supervising the computer network. This portal has been developed for the Internet information officers of various Government Departments to protect data and provide facilities for getting feedback from the public. Through this centre, interruption-free internet services and the protection of data of the Government Departments are assured. ■

HAPPINESS

There are two ways of being happy: We must either diminish our wants or augment our means — either may do — the result is the same and it is for each man to do decide for himself and do that which happens to be the easier.

Franklin Benjamin

All the schemes announced by the Hon'ble Amma's Government have been successfully implemented in the District

Excerpts from the Presidential Speech of the
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**,
after reviewing various development schemes and steps to contain Corona Virus
in Dindigul District, at the District Collectorate on 06.08.2020 *(English Translation)*.

Agricultural operations in the District are going on with the farmers taking their produce to the market without any hindrance. Due to timely rains last year, we saw a good harvest. Last year, maize farmers were affected by the American Fall armyworm and they were given sufficient compensation for the loss. This year also, to eradicate the American Fall armyworm, the Government has decided to meet the entire expenses for spraying pesticides. The farmers who were affected by drought have been given drought relief. Farmers were given interest-free crop loan. These are among the relief measures given by Hon'ble Amma's Government.

The Government has been taking various steps to help farmers market their vegetables. The Government has started a vegetable centre in Dindigul District under the Indo-Israel Partnership Scheme, at a cost of Rs.10.18 crore. At this centre 4,028 farmers were given seedlings. About 36,000 farmers have been given technical training. Five primary vegetable and fruits processing units have been set up at a cost of Rs.46.34 crore, under the scheme of Supply Chain Management Personnel for fruit and vegetable farmers. Under the Micro Irrigation Scheme in the past four years, Rs.71.28 crore had been allocated and work undertaken; in the current year Rs.67 crore has been allotted. Work is going on. Under the Crop Insurance scheme, Rs.45 crore has been given as compensation to 46,951 farmers. A sum of Rs.29 crore has been allotted for extended dry land agriculture and about 42,000 farmers have benefited. For this scheme in the current financial year, about Rs. 12 crore has been allotted. Under the Group Farming scheme, Rs.11.50 crore has been allotted to 231 farmer producer groups for procuring 1,056 numbers of farm equipment, benefiting 24,000 farmers. This year through this scheme about 7,700 farmers will benefit. Subsidy has been given for setting up 42 onion godowns, 124 bundling rooms and 5,000-tonne capacity refrigerated godowns.

On behalf of the Local Administration and Public Works Departments, in Dindigul District alone 533 farm ponds and 403 check dams have formed. In Thangamapatti Village in Vedasandur, a food park is to be set up on a 10-acre plot. Many schemes like these are to be implemented in the District.

Palani Andavar Temple in Dindigul District is one of the most important temples in Tamil Nadu. Dindigul has become synonymous with locks not only in India, but throughout the world. Here, 123 units are engaged in lock manufacturing. Forty-one spinning mills are functioning in the District. As there are a large number of Spinning Mills in the District, many people are getting employment in this area.

Due to Global Investors Meet organized by the Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in 2015 new projects came up; because of this, in SIPCOT Industrial Park in Nilakkottai in the District, Amway of United States has installed its expanded medicine and nutrition manufacturing project at a cost Rs.250 crore, with employment opportunities for 400 people. Sudarshan Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd., has set up a cotton thread and garments manufacturing unit, at a cost Rs. 284 crore, with employment for 400 people; the Sri Siddi Vinayakar Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd., at a cost of Rs.52 crore, has set up a cotton thread and garments manufacturing unit that would give employment to 325 persons at Vedasandur.

After the 2019 Global Investors Meet 2019, Anil Foods, Ambika Cotton Mills Ltd., and Swathi Hatcheries have signed Memoranda of Understanding for a total investment of Rs.300 crore with jobs to 300 people.

In SIPCOT, 63 units have established with an investment of Rs.1,000 crore. Through this, 3,000 people will get direct employment. So far Rs.5.25 crore has been given as subsidy for 31 units. Credit approval has been given for sanctioning Rs.106 crore as loan to 4,773 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the District. Under the Covid Relief and upliftment Scheme, credit acceptance to the tune of Rs.2.70 crore has been given to 35 units.

Since 1997, 61 leather processing units have been functioning in the District. A centralized common effluent plant set up at a cost of Rs.35.70 crore has been functioning to cater to these units. Hon'ble Amma's Government has been giving priority both for industries and agriculture and considers both these as its two eyes and taking various measures both to boost agriculture and to start new industries to provide employment to educated youth.

Similarly, the Government has implemented various Combined Water Supply Schemes providing permanent drinking water supply to the people. Apart from renovating various roads, we have also laid new roads. We have implemented 'Kudimaramathu' scheme in different parts of the District to conserve every drop of rain water for agricultural use and drinking water supply. We have announced a number of check dams across various ponds and rivers and works are going on. More check dams are under Government's process.

In Kodaikanal, a Government Arts and Science College has been opened. The long-pending demand of the people of this area to have a short-cut road from Periyakulam and parts of Kerala to Kodaikanal, Hon'ble Amma's Government has made arrangements for laying a road from Kumbakkarai to Adukkam.

A new Revenue Taluk is to be formed with headquarters at Gujiliamparai. We have sanctioned Old Age Pension and Amma two-wheeler scheme with subsidy for working women. As part of Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme, petitions have been received from the public and they have all been processed. Based on the petitions, new pattas have been issued and Old Age Pension has been given.

Despite the difficult pandemic times we are going through, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been successfully conducting anti-Corona activities in the District. All the schemes announced by the Hon'ble Amma's Government have been successfully implemented in the District. I congratulate the District Collector for successfully carrying out various measures and the Government officials who actively co-operated with the Collector, as well as doctors, nurses, medical workers, conservancy workers and those who involved themselves in preventing the spread of Corona in the District.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lends ear to problems faced by MSME units, assures action

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at a meeting of the office-bearers of the Federation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Dindigul District, at the District Collectorate on 06.08.2020 *(English Translation)*.

The major occupation of people in Dindigul District is agriculture. There are also 41 spinning mills in the District, with an employee strength of about 18,000 according to statistics given by the Industries Department. Various demands placed by the office bearers of the Federation of Industries will be considered by the Government. Problems faced by the leather industries in the District have been brought to the notice of the Government; they

will be looked into. Issues faced by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in running the industries will be addressed by the Government. Recently, the Government issued an order for issuing ePass without any difficulty. If the industries give the names and addresses of the employees, then the District Administration will give identity cards to them. By showing these identity cards, the employees can go to their offices. It is enough if the employees renew the cards once in a month. Similarly the units here, if required, can bring in the employees of other States to their units. For this, the units should give the necessary details about the workers to the District Administration upon which the District Collector will take the necessary steps to give ePass to them. The other State workers will be tested for Corona on their arrival and if they test positive they will be given treatment by the Government. If they test negative, they can be taken to the units and given employment. In a similar manner you have brought up many issues. I assure you that the Government will consider them after consulting higher officials. I thank on behalf of the Government to all the office-bearers of the federation of industries, for attending the meeting on our invitation.

Co-operative Banks

- Co-operative banks are so called because they are organised under the provision of the Co-operative Credit Societies law of the states. The major beneficiary of the Co-operative Banking is the agricultural sector in particular and the rural sector in general. The first such bank was established in 1904.
- The Co-operative credit institutions operating in the country are mainly of two kinds agricultural (dominant) and non-agricultural.

- At the apex is the State Co-operative Bank (SCB) (co-operation being a State subject in India), at the intermediate (District) level are the Central Co-operative Banks (CCBs) and at the Village level are Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (CCBs) and at the village level are Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs). Long term agricultural credit is provided by the Land Development Banks.

Source: Indian Polity & Indian Economy.

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches website for eye donation, donates eyes himself

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, inaugurated the website www.hmis.tn.gov.in/eye-donor, developed by the Tamil Nadu State wing of the National Health Mission, on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department, for those who are interested in donating their eyes, at the Secretariat on 07.09.2020.

There are about 68 lakh people in the country who have no vision due to cornea damage. The most affected among them are children and youth. With the present technological advance in medicine, eyes received as donation from a person can be used to give vision to two blind people through simple cornea transplantation. The other parts of the eyes can also be used for treatment to those whose vision is affected.

Most of the people who want to donate their eyes are clueless on whom to contact for donating their eyes after death. This new website has been launched to make them aware of the eye donation procedure and to create a register of eye donors.

Through this portal, those who want to donate their eyes can register their names, address, cell phone number and e-mail address. After they take their pledge, they can download their certificate of donation from the portal. The certificate may be received from their registered e-mail also. Through this registration, the eyes received from the donors will be properly handed over to the eye bank at appropriate time by a medical team.

On the occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu took the pledge to donate his eyes. The certificate of donation was handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister by the Principal Secretary for Health and Family Welfare, Dr.J.Radhakrishnan, I.A.S..

Hon'ble Chief Minister confers 'Best Teacher' awards

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, distributed on behalf of the School Education Department, the Government of Tamil Nadu's Best Teacher Award to 15 teachers belonging to Chennai District, out of 375 teachers selected for the Award throughout the State, in connection with Teachers Day Celebrations. The selected teachers were given the Dr. Radhakrishnan Award, a Silver Medal and a cheque for Rs.10,000 each at the Secretariat on 07.09.2020.

September 5th is the birth anniversary of the great philosopher Dr.S.Radhakrishnan, who started his career as a teacher and rose to the position of President of the country, adding great respect and fame to the teaching community. The day is celebrated as 'Teachers Day' throughout the country and on this day, those who render yeoman service as teachers are given the Dr.Radhakrishnan 'Best Teacher' Awards every year by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

In this connection, to encourage teachers who performed extremely well in the teaching profession, the School Education Department selected 375 teachers working in schools and teacher training schools for this year's award. Of them, 15 teachers belonging to Chennai District were given the award by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Following this, other awardees, who belong to other Districts were honoured and given the Dr. Radhakrishnan Award.

Headmistress Tmt.R.C.Saraswathi and Graduate Teacher Thiru. S. Dhilip, who were selected for the National Teachers Award for 2020, showed their certificates and medals to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who congratulated the awardees.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens 'Integrated Rural Development' building at Theni

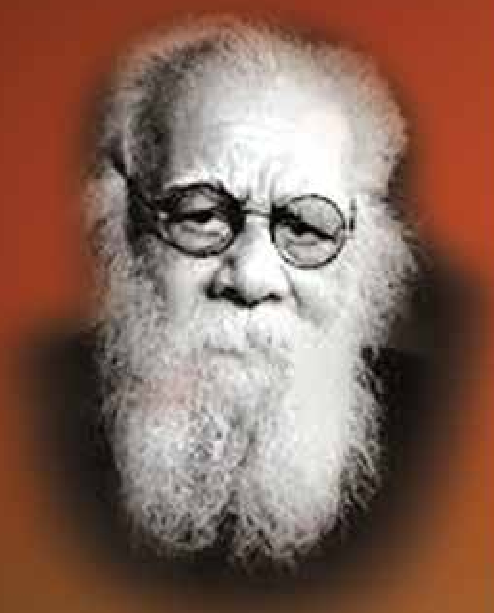
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tami Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, declared open the Integrated Rural Development and Panchayat Office Building at the Theni District Master Plan Collectorate Complex, constructed at a cost of Rs.6.20 crore, through video conferencing. In addition, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 2 bridges in Perambalur District, built at a cost of Rs.1.34 crore from the Secretariat on 07.09.2020.

The District Rural Development Agency serves as an institution implementing the development plans at the village level in the districts and as an office to train employees and organize review meetings. A majority of District Rural Development Agency offices function in small rented buildings without adequate space. Taking this into consideration, during the 2017-2018 budget demand of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, the Government announced that an integrated office complex would be set up at Theni District, integrating the District Rural Development Agency and District-level training offices.

As per the announcement, the new Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department building on a 28,716 sq.ft. area on the Theni District Collectorate campus was constructed at a cost of Rs.6.20 crore. The office, with ground floor and first floor, was declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister from the Secretariat through video conferencing.

In Perambalur District 2 bridges, one each in Alathur Panchayat Union on the Mannachanallur-Edumalai-Elanthalapatti-Kannapadi Road a bridge at a cost of Rs. 57 lakh and the other on the Adaikkampatti-Nagalapuram Road at a cost of Rs. 77 lakh were declared open.

Totally, a Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department Union building and two bridges, costing Rs.7.54 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.



The hero of Vaikom

In 1924, Periyar led the famous Vaikkom Satyagraha in Kerala as the Ezhavas – depressed Classes and Adidravidars – were banned from entering streets around Vaikkom temple on the grounds of their "low birth". Periyar declined to give up his campaign although the Travancore Maharaja who was his personal friend persuaded him to give it up. He was imprisoned by the Travancore Government twice during this campaign. Later, the Travancore Government relaxed such social segregation and that was a great achievement of Periyar's agitation at Vaikkom and he was therefore called. "The Hero of Vaikom". Periyar's achievements were applauded by the Government of India; when they issued Periyar Centenary Commemoration stamp on 17.09.1978, following is the citation:

"The satyagraha he launched at Vaikkom in Kerala against the despicable practice of barring entry of people of certain castes into the streets where people of other castes lived was success and he earned the title 'Vaikkom Hero'.

His achievement laid the foundation for allowing the Adidravidars in the temples in that State later on.

Source: Periyar and His Ideologies

NEWS IN PICTURE

142nd Birth Anniversary of Thanthai Periyar

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** paid floral tributes to the portrait of Thanthai Periyar kept near his statue at Anna Flyover, Anna Salai, Chennai in connection with the 142nd birth anniversary of Thanthai Periyar on 17.09.2020. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister **Thiru. O.Panneerselvam,** Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs and high Government officials were present on the occasion.

News in picture

Development works of Vellore, Tirupattur and Ranipet Districts

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** declared open 38 completed scheme works in the Districts of Vellore, Tirupattur and Ranipet, at an estimate of Rs.50.51 crore and laid the foundation for 3 new works executed in the Districts of Vellore, Tirupattur and Ranipet at an estimate of Rs.50.51 crore and laid the foundation for 3 new schemes to be executed at an estimate Rs.73.53 crore at a function held at the Vellore District Collectorate on 20.08.2020.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** distributed Government welfare assistance to the beneficiaries belonging to the Districts of Vellore, Tirupattur and Ranipet at a function held at Vellore District Collectorate on 20.08.2020. Hon'ble Minister for Commercial Taxes and Registration Thiru. K.C.Veeramani and Hon'ble Minister for Labour Dr. Nilofer Kafeel, Members of the Legislative Assembly, District Collectors Thiru. A. Shanmuga Sundaram I.A.S., (Vellore), Thiru. Sivan Arul I.A.S., (Tirupattur), Tmt.S. Divyadharshini I.A.S., (Ranipet) and high officials of Government were present on the occasion.

‘State will be hit by disincentive framework for priority sector lending’

Tamil Nadu objects to discriminatory provision in RBI Master Directions

Text of the D.O. letter dated 08.09.2020 of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** addressed to Hon’ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi.**

The recent Master Directions for Priority Sector Lending issued vide RBI Master Directions FIDD. CO. Plan. BC.5/ 04.09.01/2020-2021 dated 4th September, 2020 contain a very disturbing and discriminatory provision. Para 7 of the Master Directions entitled “Adjustments for weights in PSL Achievement” contains a provision to incentivise flow of priority sector credit to Districts with comparatively lower flow of credit with a higher weightage of 125 per cent. Prima facie this is not objectionable. However what we find unacceptable is the dis-incentive frame work contained in the guideline for Districts with comparatively higher flow of priority sector credit with a lower weightage of 90 per cent.

As per Annexure 1A of the Master Directions, all 32 Districts of Tamil Nadu (prior to bifurcation) are categorised as Districts with comparatively high flow of priority sector credit. Hence, all of Tamil Nadu has been covered in the dis-incentive frame work for priority sector lending. In no other State have so many Districts been covered in the dis-incentive frame work. Tamil Nadu appears to have been singled out for particularly adverse treatment in the Master Directions.

While attempts can and should be made to increase credit flow to Districts where it is low, such efforts ought to be by increasing the overall credit flow and not by attempting diverting credit from other Districts / States. The overall size of the pie needs to be increased alongside greater financial penetration.

Districts in Tamil Nadu have received a higher flow of credit on account of the enterprise, hard work, diligence and timely repayment of loans by households and businesses in the State. These households and businesses have been good borrowers, utilising the loans for the intended purpose and servicing the debt on time. They should not now be penalised for having abided by the rules, by directing the flow of credit away from them. On the contrary, they should be encouraged to expand the economic activities in the country.

Hence, this policy of the RBI is unfair and regressive and must be reversed immediately. Hard working, law abiding borrowers who serviced their debt on time, deserve to be encouraged by higher flow of credit. All parts of the country and Tamil Nadu in particular have been affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Uninterrupted flow of credit at this time is critical for revival of economic activity. No such retro grade action, adversely affecting flow of credit, should be taken.

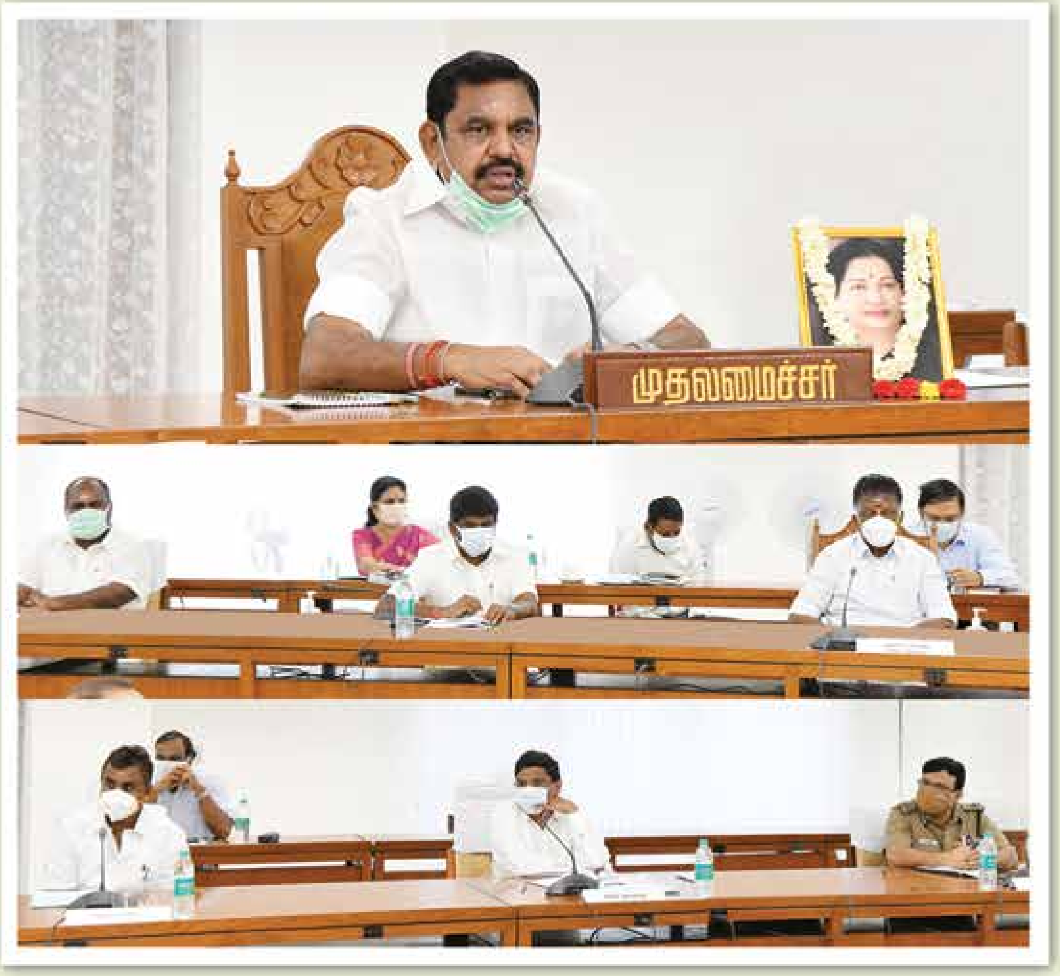
Dis-incentivising good borrowers who repay on time is a short-sighted and counter-productive strategy, for not just the overall economic well-being of the nation, especially when the nation is combating the impact of COVID, but also for the health of the banking system which is struggling with rising non-performing assets. I request you to prevail upon the RBI to immediately reverse this decision and restore the earlier weightage system for free flow of priority sector credit. ■

INTOLERANCE

Intolerance has been the greatest enemy of our progress.

Dr.S. Radhakrishnan

Hon'ble Chief Minister gears up State machinery to face monsoon challenges in Corona times



Excerpts from the speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at a meeting held at Secretariat, Chennai on 08.09.2020 to discuss anti-corona virus activities *(English Translation).*

The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to start 2,000 mini-clinics across the State for treating common diseases. This is due to the fact that an extra-ordinary situation is prevailing in the State due to Corona virus and people are not able to get treatment for common

fever and other diseases. These mini clinics will come up in Corporations, Municipalities, big villages and in areas where there are no Primary Health Centres. These Clinics will have one doctor, one nurse and one assistant with adequate stock of medicines and medical equipment. These clinics will also provide treatment and give medicines for common fever, headache and other diseases.

As the monsoon season has begun, there is a possibility of Dengue fever affecting people in addition to the threat of Corona virus. Many parts of the State are witnessing rains. Stagnant water in Corporations, Municipalities, Town Panchayats and Panchayats may become common due to rain and stagnant water should be removed forthwith. In places where there is heavy incidence of Corona virus, disinfectants should be sprayed. Public toilets should be cleaned at regular intervals. You should see to it that, there is no water stagnation. This alone will prevent breeding of mosquitoes. Normally it is difficult to find the exact reason for fever. If a person is having fever, then he may have symptoms of Corona also. At this juncture, if a person is afflicted with Dengue, he will have problems. To prevent Dengue fever, I appeal to the Local Administration Department to be cautious and take proper steps in this regard.

Now most of the industries have started functioning. At least 300 to 400 persons are working in each of these industries. Department officials should make periodic inspection to check whether thermal scan is done for workers when they report for duty, whether they wear mask and maintain social distance at the work places. By observing these guidelines alone, we can prevent the spreading of the Corona virus. Officials should regularly meet the representatives of trade unions and should convene a meeting of the entrepreneurs at least once in 15 days and insist on the need for following the anti-Corona measures. In all Districts there are Labour Department wings. Top officials of the Labour Department should inspect the industries at regular intervals. They should create awareness among workers on the need to maintain social distance when they assemble for lunch.

The Secretary of the Health Department has placed a demand for more number of doctors and nurses. All the doctor and nurses vacancies will be filled.

If the public follow the guidelines issued by the Government, the spread of Corona virus can be prevented. The Government is ready to give proper treatment to those who are affected by the virus and to restore them to health. The mortality rate has been reduced substantially in the State, when compared to other States. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off 90 more '108' Ambulance vans

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami flagged off totally 118 vehicles, including 90 Ambulance vans, fitted with life-saving equipment worth Rs. 20.65 crore on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department for the 108 Emergency Ambulance Service, 10 blood collection vans for the service of the blood banks of the Government Hospitals worth Rs.3.09 crore and 18 Emergency vehicles, worth Rs. 1.26 crore, donated by the Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., for Covid-19 control activities at the Secretariat on 31.08.2020.

The State Government, treading the path of the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has been implementing various schemes to reduce road accidents, to strengthen the 108 Emergency Ambulance Service to prevent the loss of lives, forming Accident Treatment Centres and strengthening the Head Injury Treatment Centres wherever necessary. At present, 1,005 Ambulance vans are operating for the 108 Emergency Service. Through this service, so far 1.20 crore people have benefited. The 108 Ambulance vans are rendering great service, transporting people affected by the Corona Virus to hospitals and taking the treated patients to their homes.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister made a statement on the floor of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 on 24.03.2020 that, the 108 Emergency Ambulance Van Services will be further strengthened in the current financial year with the addition of new 500 new vans valued at Rs. 125 crore.

To implement the announcement, under the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform

Programme Rs. 103.50 crore has been allotted for the purchase of Ambulance Vans and in the first phase 90 new Ambulance Vans worth Rs.20.65 crore;

10 refrigerated modern blood collection vans, costing Rs. 3.09 crore, to take the blood collected at the blood donation camps to the blood banks of 10 Government Hospitals;

The Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., has agreed to donate 45 emergency vans for anti-Covid-19 activities and in the first phase 18 vans at a cost of Rs. 1.26 crore;

Totally 118 vehicles were flagged off by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

For the first time in the country, one of the 108 Ambulance Vans, is to be operated by a women driver, Tmt. M.Veeralakshmi, appointed in the 108 Emergency Ambulance Service.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion also handed over appointment orders to 7 selected candidates for the post of Junior Assistants in the Department of General Health and Disease Prevention as a token of distributing appointment orders to candidates who were selected by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) for the 138 vacancies in the Department.

Under the National Quality Assurance Scheme, various parameters with regard to Government hospitals such as health services, health indicators, proper maintenance, treatment given to patients and feedback from patients were evaluated by an expert team. Based on the evaluation, Government hospitals are selected and are given the Central Government's cash prize and National Quality Assurance Certificate. The cash prize is given continuously for 3 years.

In Tamil Nadu, 13 hospitals were selected by the National Quality Assurance Scheme and given a cash prize of Rs. 2.53 crore, along with certificates (for the year 2019-2020).

The hospitals are Kancheepuram Government Headquarters Hospital in Kancheepuram District; Tambaram Government Hospital in Chengalpattu District; Ambur Government Hospital and Tirupattur Government Hospital in Tirupattur District; Sholingur Government Hospital in Ranipet District; Arur Government Hospital in Dharmapuri District; Tiruchendur Government Hospital in Thoothukudi District; Aruppukottai Government Hospital in Virudhunagar District; Paramakudi Government Hospital in Ramanathapuram District, Srirangam Government Hospital in Tiruchirapalli District; Mettupalayam Government Hospital in Coimbatore District; Rasipuram Government Hospital in Namakkal District and Hosur Government Hospital in Krishnagiri District.

The cash prize and the National Quality Assurance Certificates given on behalf of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, were handed over by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the heads of the selected Government Hospitals.

Hon'ble Chief Minister greets Paralympic achiever for winning another award

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami issued on 21.08.2020 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Amma's Government identifies talented sportspersons in Tamil Nadu, trains them in sports stadiums of global standards, offers high cash incentives and implements many schemes to encourage them.

Thiru. T.Mariappan added glory to India and Tamil Nadu by winning the gold in the 2016 Paralympics in the high jump event and bronze in the 2018 Asian Paralympic games and 2019 World Para Athletics Championships. The Central Government honoured him with 'Padma Shri Award' and 'Arjuna Award'. The Government of Tamil Nadu presented him the high-level incentive of Rs.2 crore.

It is joyous news for all of us that the Central Government has now announced the 'Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award' to Thiru. Mariappan. At this moment, I offer on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, hearty good wishes and appreciation to Thiru. Mariappan.

"Deivathaan Aagaadheninum Muyarchithan meivarutha Koolitharum"

- in accordance with Thiruvalluvar's saying, Thiru.Mariappan's grit and perseverance have sown the seeds for his success.

As an exemplar of the saying that determination and daring brook no hurdle, Thiru. Mariappan is a role model to those who want to achieve by surmounting difficulties.

My heartfelt good wishes to Thiru. Mariappan for achieving more and more and adding glory to Tamil Nadu and India.

Consider revising the Minimum Support Price for Milling Copra

Text of the D.O. letter dated 19.08.2020 of
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami addressed to
Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Thiru. Narendra Singh Tomar.

"As you are aware, Tamil Nadu is one of the major Coconut growing States in the country, with an area of around 4.40 lakh hectares. Every year, based on the recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Government of India is declaring Minimum Support Price (MSP) for various agricultural crops, including Copra. For 2020 Copra season, Government of India has declared Rs.99.60 per Kg as MSP for Milling Copra.

The Coconut plantations in Tamil Nadu in the past two years have faced many challenges like occurrence of Gaja cyclone in 2018 and incidence of Rugose Whitefly in 2019. Coconut growers incur substantial expenditure during harvesting, transportation and storage of harvested produce. Further, the lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the Coconut farmers, who have to incur additional cost due to scarcity of labour and challenges in transportation. The Government of Tamil Nadu, while communicating its views on the Price Policy for Copra 2020 season, had on 23.01.2020 suggested Rs.105 per kg for Milling Copra. At present, market rate in Tamil Nadu and nearby States prevails between Rs.100 to Rs.110 per Kg. Hence, taking the above challenges into consideration, it is felt that the present MSP for Milling Copra of Rs.99.60 per kg will not be adequate to compensate their cost of production.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that, Government of India had fixed the Minimum Support Prices for crops like Paddy, Ragi and Pulses at 150% of the cost of cultivation. The coconut farmers also need to be given adequate price for their produce, in order to enable them to overcome the increasing costs of production in the background of seasonal adversities, pest attacks and rising input costs.

Hence, I request you to kindly consider revision of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling Copra from Rs.99.60 to atleast Rs.125 per kg for the current 2020 Copra season, for safeguarding the interest of Coconut growers in the country." ■

Mayiladuthurai District to be created

Rs.1,000 crore Food Park in Nagapattinam District

Excerpts from the Presidential Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and containment of COVID-19 in Nagapattinam District, at District Collectorate on 27.08.2020 *(English Translation).*

To prevent the spread of Corona virus in Nagapattinam District, 438 fever camps were conducted, in which 16,158 persons were screened. There are 31 containment zones in the District. The Government is concentrating more on steps to prevent the spread of Corona virus and to provide proper treatment to affected persons. Apart from this, with the co-ordination of the Revenue Department, Local Administration and Police Department, disinfectants are sprayed in areas where more cases of the infection have been reported. Public toilets are cleaned regularly and disinfected. Due to this, the Corona virus spread is controlled.

More loans are sanctioned for Self help Groups in Tamil Nadu than in any other State. In Nagapattinam, there are 8,840 Self Help Groups with a membership of 94,960. In the last three years, Rs.762.02 crore has been given as loan. In the current financial year, a target of Rs. 568 crore has been fixed, of which Rs. 63.25 crore has distributed. I would like to mention at this juncture, that SHGs are functioning extremely well in Tamil Nadu.

In Nagapattinam alone in the last three years, 4,347 two wheelers have been given to working women and for this the subsidy sanctioned by the Government is Rs.10.85 crore.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana Scheme, in the last 4 years, 7,27,677 farmers have been registered. Of this 4,22,998 farmers received Rs.1,051 crore as compensation for the crop loss.

We have constructed more check dams in Nagapattinam District. To check intrusion of sea water, work is going on for a barrage between Adhanur and Kumaramangalam.

Foundation stone has been laid for setting up a Government Medical College and Hospital and residential quarters at a cost of Rs.367 crore and the work is going on. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which got sanction for 11 Government Medical colleges in a single year. After completing the construction of these works, there will be no difficulty for the poor and the downtrodden to get proper medical treatment. The medical facilities in these Government Medical College Hospitals will be better than private hospitals.

There has been a long-pending demand for creating Mayiladuthurai District with Mayiladuthurai headquarters by bifurcating Nagapattinam District and public hearing is going on. I would like to say that soon the new District will be formed.

In Nagapattinam District, the Government is to set up a Food Park on a 250-acre area at an estimate of Rs.1,000 crore. This will provide employment opportunities to 1,800 people. Similarly, with Private, Central and the State Government participation a readymade textile park is to be set up. Tharangambadi, Vellapallam and Arcottuthurai in the District are to have a fishing harbour each. I am happy to inform that our Government is providing all facilities to the District for its development.

I congratulate the District Administration for the effective steps it has been taking to tackle the Corona virus in the District. I appeal to the people to stand with the Government in its efforts to prevent the spread of the virus in the District. ■

JOY

When we rejoice in our fullness, then we can part with our fruits with joy.

Rabindranath Tagore

News in Pictures

Development works in Nagapattinam District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** declared open 13 completed scheme works, valued at Rs.43.60 crore and laid the foundation for 10 new schemes to be executed at an estimate of Rs.207.56 crore at a function held in Nagapattinam District Collectorate on 27.08.2020.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** distributed welfare assistance to beneficiaries at a function held in Nagapattinam District Collectorate on 27.08.2020. Hon'ble Minister for Handlooms and Textiles Thiru. O.S. Manian, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Nagapattinam District Collector Thiru. Praveen P Nair I.A.S., and high Government officials were present on the occasion.

When Anna secured the release of an Indian patriot from a Portuguese prison

Five minutes had been allotted to Perarignar Anna to meet the Pope St.Paul IV, Head of Catholic Church, when the former went to Vatican City in 1969.

"I am the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, a State at a far end of India, the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi", began Anna and concluded in five minutes his words extolling the greatness of Tamils.

The Pope said: "You speak excellently. Continue". Anna spoke for another 55 minutes.

Enticed by Anna's speech, the Pope thanked Anna and said: "Ask for a gift that you seek".

"Will you give me whatever I ask?", asked Anna.

"Ask, I will"- said the Pope.

Goa in India had been under Portugal's occupation. "Mohan Ranade who fought against Portuguese occupation, is still languishing in prison in Lisbon, capital of Portugal. As the head of Christians in the world, could you talk to Portugal and get the release of Mohan Ranade" – Anna requested The Pope replied affirmatively. Anna returned to India happily.

Mohan Ranade was released on the Pope's request and was handed over to the Indian Embassy in Lisbon.

The then Prime Minister of India, Annai Indira Gandhi went to the airport to receive Mohan Ranade.

"The people of Goa for whom I fought have forgotten me; Thiru. Annadurai from Tamil Nadu has sought my release; where is he?", asked Mr. Mohan Ranade to Indira Gandhi.

"Anna is no more. I shall make arrangements for you to go to Goa that you adore" said Annai Indira.

A heart-broken Mohan Ranade said: "Goa is not the first place for me to go; Anna Samadhi is".

At the Anna Samadhi on the Marina, Mohan Ranade wept uncontrollably and paid his tearful homage.

Perarignar Anna was a great humanitarian who sought the release of a freedom fighter from the Pope; the thought of asking something for himself did not cross his mind.

State becomes an educational model for the whole of India

Tamil Nadu keeps Education in full throttle through TV lessons for school students

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, on 26.08.2020 *(English Translation).*

Perarignar Anna said: "Education is wealth which Time cannot destroy; in a country, it should not lie in mines under rocks as nuggets. It should be taken out, used and made into glittering gold." Hon'ble Amma's Government, headed by me, is translating this life-giving dictum of Perarignar Anna into action.

"All people should get all things; scarcity should become scarce here" – was Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's 'taraka mantra'. To enable poor students get education, Hon'ble Amma ordered and implemented to an extent not achieved by any State in India, distribution, besides free education of text books, note-books, school uniform, footwear, school bag, laptop and bicycle to students in Government and aided schools every year at no cost, along with incentives. These were schemes that came to the fore because of the visionary outlook of Hon'ble Amma. Well aware of this, I launched the scheme 'Learning-Teaching' through Education TV (Kalvi Tholaikaatchi) on 26.08.2019. Following this, lessons for all classes were recorded in videos in a short duration in the academic year 2019-2020 and telecast through Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Limited.

When the dreaded COVID-19 paralyzed the entire world, though commencing the new academic year became a challenge, teachers of Tamil Nadu confronted it by undertaking the task of video recording lessons from 2nd to 10th standard for Education TV, which was altered to become a model for the whole of India in helping students learn from home without any interruption. Like the time-table for classes in schools, the telecast schedule was designed class-wise and lesson-wise for the whole week. All video lessons prepared in this way have embedded QR Code. On 14.07.2020, I inaugurated the telecast of the lessons, prepared in this new format, through Education TV. As a great support to these efforts of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Education TV's events are being telecast in 11 private and cable TV's and in Airtel DTH.

Arrangements have been made for those who missed to see a day's programmes in Education TV, to learn the missed lessons the next day through the You Tube channel of Education TV. Education TV's portal also displays its telecast schedule and other information. Education TV's telecast for the 1st and 11th classes will commence after enrolment in them is over.

As far as the lessons for the 12th standard are concerned, they are uploaded in the laptops given to students at no cost through the hi-tech laboratories in 2,939 Government higher secondary schools. Of the planned 1,498 video lessons for this, 414 video lessons have been uploaded in the laptops of 4,20,624 students in the first phase and the rest of the lessons will be provided in the coming months.

The special features of Education TV are conducting classes lesson-wise and topic-wise as is done in classes in school, through a prepared telecast schedule and telecasting lessons in sign-language for differently abled students in 10th standard.

"Even as we get butter by churning curd, we should benefit by developing intelligence" – said Perarignar Anna. There is no doubt that students, in accordance with this golden saying, will benefit by properly learning the lessons through Education TV and developing their intelligence.

I am doubly happy over the news that Education TV is completing its first year of service today even as, I am happy over the fact that Education TV serves as a model for the rest of India. On its first anniversary, I offer my heartfelt greetings and appreciation. I also convey my appreciation to the Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Principal Secretary to the Department of School Education, officials, teachers and all the good hearts who are conducting this TV in an excellent manner. I wish to state at this hour that, the Government headed by me will accomplish countless such achievements in the interest of students. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks generous Central support for State's water resources projects

Opening remarks of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, in the Meeting with the
Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakthi
Thiru. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,
on 18.08.2020.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakthi Thiru. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Ji,

Hon'ble Minister of Tamil Nadu for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programme, Thiru. S.P. Velumani,

Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,

Secretary, Water Resource, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India,

Other senior Officers of Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister for Jal Sakthi for all the support extended by Jal Shakthi Ministry to Tamil Nadu on various issues and Schemes related to water resources.

As you are well aware, Tamil Nadu is a water deficient State which has no perennial river and the State has to fully depend upon the monsoon. Therefore, I have taken up a number of initiatives to bring water security to the State by launching many water conservation and augmentation programmes like 'Kudimaramathu' scheme, which is a community participatory water body improvement scheme. 6,278 works have been taken up at a cost of Rs. 1,434 crore in the last four years.

Similarly, I have also announced that check dams will be constructed across rivers

wherever feasible at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore over a period of 3 years and it is under progress.

Under the State funds, a number of rivers and canals have been restored, which has resulted in increase of crop coverage in the State and achieved record paddy procurement in the current year.

I would like to highlight some of the issues which need Government of India's generous support.

1. GODAVARI – CAUVERY RIVER LINK

National Water Development Agency (NWDA) prepared a Detailed Project Reports (DPR) and sent to the States concerned for their comments during March, 2019. Tamil Nadu has sent its comments on 04.09.2019 itself with a request to re-work the alignment to Mayanur Barrage instead of Grand Anicut.

I have also written letters to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and to you in this regard and requested to allot 200 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu from the Project. I request you to instruct NWDA to quickly complete the preparation of DPR for this Project and take up the work.

2. CAUVERY – GUNDAR LINK

Similarly, Cauvery – Gundar link is proposed within the State and is a part of National Perspective Plan for river development. NWDA has prepared the DPR, which is yet to be sent to Government of Tamil Nadu. I request you to instruct NWDA to forward the DPR to the State Government so that, the work can be fast tracked.

3. NADANDHAI VAAZHI CAUVERY

I have announced rehabilitation and rejuvenation of river Cauvery and to abate pollution in the river on the lines of 'Namami Gange' Programme. Estimate has been prepared for an amount of Rs.10,700 crore and WAPCOS is preparing the DPR. Cauvery is the life line of Tamil Nadu, not only for agriculture, but also for drinking water. Therefore, I request that this Project may be sanctioned as a special programme like 'Namami Gange' Programme and may be taken up as a National Project.

4. ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

Government of India is implementing this World Bank supported Scheme in 7 States. Tamil Nadu has not been included under the Scheme, even though Tamil Nadu is a water deficient State. Hence, I request that Tamil Nadu be included in the Scheme during the current year.

5. DAM SAFETY BILL

Tamil Nadu has requested certain corrections in certain clauses in the proposed Dam Safety Bill and conveyed to Government of India. The State which owns, operates and controls the dam should have full operational control with regard to dam safety. The Government of Tamil Nadu's request for corrections in the Dam Safety Bill may be included before introduction of this Bill in Lok Sabha.

6. Karnataka requested Government of India for approval for construction of a dam across Cauvery at Mekedatu. Central Water Commission (CWC) has given permission to Karnataka for preparing the DPR, against which I have addressed the Hon'ble Prime Minister and you. As you are aware, the Cauvery water is shared between Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and other States based on the Cauvery Tribunal's Order and the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Tamil Nadu has filed an SLP against this Mekedatu Project in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Inspite of this, CWC has forwarded this proposal to Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). Due to the strong opposition by Tamil Nadu this item has been deferred. You are well aware that Cauvery is the life line of Tamil Nadu and any attempt to restrict its flow by an upper riparian State is a violation of the Supreme Court order. Therefore, I request you to instruct the CWC and CWMA authorities to reject and return the proposal of Karnataka.

7. Similarly, Karnataka has been constructing an anicut across Penniyar River against the agreements in force. Tamil Nadu has filed a case before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and based on the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order, Negotiation Committee meetings have been held by Central Water Commission (CWC). As there is no progress in these meetings, we have requested the Government of India to form a Tribunal immediately. Urgent action will be appreciated.

8. With regard to Jal Jeevan Mission, baseline data of rural household has been updated and uploaded in the month of May. For the current year, 34 lakh households are proposed to be covered by giving tap connections. For 2020-2021 against an allocation of Rs.2,375 crore, we have allotted Rs.2,265 crore to the Districts to effect 20 lakh household connections. Remaining 14 lakh households will be covered by converging funds of various scheme.

We have already covered about 4 lakh connections and propose to complete the rest by March, 2021.

My Minister for Rural Development and Municipal Administration, Chief Engineer, Chairman of Cauvery Technical Committee Mr.Subramanian and officers will give further details of Jal Jeevan Mission during their presentation.

I hope the Government of India will support our initiatives in developing our water resources.

Thank You, Nandri! Vanakkam!

KINDNESS

Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well.

Mother Theresa

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for Sai University coming up at Payyanur

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, laid the foundation stone for the main campus building in the first phase of the proposed Sai University, to be built on a 103.07 acre site at a cost of Rs.600 crore at Payyanur in Chengalpattu District, through video conferencing from the Secretariat on 31.08.2020.

At the Global Investors Meet in Chennai on January 23 and 24, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Higher Education Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Sai Education, Medical, Research and Charitable Trust on 24.01.2019, in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for setting up the Sai University in Tamil Nadu.

According to the MoU, the Sai University, in the first phase, will invest Rs. 600 crore for over a period of 7 years for constructing buildings on 12 lakh square feet catering to the needs of 6,000 students and function with 300 faculty members and a administrative section of 300-Members. A retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, senior advocates and experts from the field of education and other fields will be the members of the Administrative Committee of the University.

In the next 5-year second phase, the University will function in a full-fledged manner with buildings on 30 lakh sq.ft. for 20,000 students and function 1,000 faculty members and a administrative section of 1,000 members. ■

Dindigul

Hon'ble Minister for Forests Thiru. Dindigul C.Sreenivasan distributed Retro Scooters to 25 differently abled persons, at the Dindigul District Collectorate.

Erode

Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. K.A.Sengottaiyan distributed Aseel chicks at no cost to the beneficiaries in Kolappalur and Nambiyur areas of Gobichettypalayam Assembly Constituency, Erode District.

Namakkal

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise Thiru. P. Thangamani distributed House site pattas on behalf of the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management to beneficiaries at no cost at a function held at Modamangalam Panchayat, Kumarapalayam Taluk, Namakkal District.

Coimbatore

Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration & Rural Development, Implementation of Special Programme Thiru. S.P.Velumani distributed packets containing Corona Virus immunity tablets, at Madukkarai area, Coimbatore District.

Dharmapuri

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education Thiru. K.P. Anbalagan distributed Garbage Collection Vehicles with 54 batteries, costing Rs.1.34 crore to 36 Panchayats in Palacode and Karimangalam Panchayat Unions, Dharmapuri District.

Erode

Hon'ble Minister for Environment Thiru.K.C. Karuppanann distributed government welfare assistance under social security scheme to beneficiaries in the Bhavani Assembly constituency, Erode District.

Tiruvarur

Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Thiru. R. Kamaraj distributed 'kabasura' kudineer and face masks to the general public at the Corona virus prevention special camp held at the Thiruthuraipoondi municipality complex, Tiruvarur District.

Tiruppur

Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry Thiru. Udumalai K Radhakrishnan released water for irrigation from Thirumoorthy Dam, Udumalpet Taluk, Tiruppur District.

Thanjavur

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Thiru. R.Doraikkannu, Hon'ble Rajya Sabha Member Thiru. R.Vaithilingam and Thiru. M.Govinda Rao IAS, District Collector of Thanjavur flagged off the commencement of restoration works on Kallaperambur lake under the Hon'ble Chief Minister 'kudimaramathu' scheme at an estimate of Rs.92 lakh.

Thoothukudi

Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. Kadambur Raju inaugurated the distribution of re-usable face masks at no cost to all family card holders in Thoothukudi District by handing over such masks to family card holders at a function held at a fair price shop in V.O.C. Nagar, Kovilpatti taluk, Thoothukudi District.

Virudhu Nagar

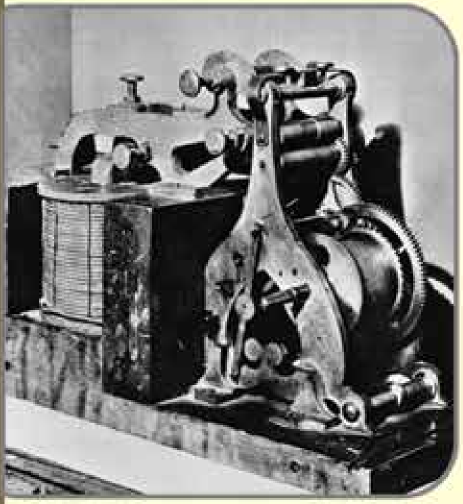
Hon'ble Minister for Milk and Dairy Development Thiru. K.T. Rajenthra bhalaji presented a cheque for Rs.25 lakh from the Chief Minister Relief Fund to the heir of Thiru. Murugesan, Village Assistant of Chinnamooppanpatti who had died while engaged in Corona virus prevention work at Virudhungar District Collectorate.

Kancheepuram

Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P. Benjamin distributed loan assistance to the tune of Rs.1.77 crore to benefit 40 persons. They are members of teams that became economically weak on account of loss of work due to Corona virus and of women self-help groups. The loan assistance is an initiative of Government of Tamil Nadu.

A model in PUBLIC RELATIONS

Before the printing press was invented, oral education was the order of the day in India. There were only a few who were proficient in writing on palm leaves in those days. Otherwise, even great scholars learned and gained knowledge



through hearing only. Religious, political and social consciousness created awareness in people about their mother language, motherland and society. Magazines were great catalysts and guides in bringing about this advancement.

While India was under British administration, the British interest in the communication field pertained to obtaining necessary facilities for themselves through letters, written with the help of writers and to convey in detail the situation in which they were placed.

In the Second World War, Britain and Germany clashed bitterly. The British Government wanted to get the support and cooperation of the Indian people by making them realize its sense of justice and Hitler's desire for oppression. Thiru. Harvey, an Englishman was appointed for this task as the Regional war propagandist (Madras Presidency) on February 16, 1942.

Thiru. Harvey structured the Department of Information and Publicity and acted as the war propagandist of the British Government. His activities are the forerunners for the present day officials of the Department of Information and Public Relations.

For nearly 4 years, Thiru. Harvey, discharged his responsibilities efficiently. His sense of duty was immense. Through the Press, he brought the various activities of the British Government to the attention of the people then and there, created a favourable image among the people about the Government, mobilized their support and acted as a bridge between the people and the Government.

Curbing Corona virus capably, Madurai District advances on various fronts

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, after reviewing the progress of various development schemes and anti-Corona activities in the Madurai District at District Collectorate on 06.08.2020 *(English Translation)*.

I bow before Idhaya Deivam, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Welcome to all of you.

The Corona virus, which is threatening the entire world, has spread in India and Tamil Nadu. In Madurai District, initially the spread of the virus was less but it increased gradually. However, it is now under control, thanks to the measures taken by the District Administration.

Due to various steps taken by the Government on the advice of the World Health Organization (WHO), Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and medical experts, the virus spread is gradually coming down. To reduce the higher incidence of the virus in Madurai District, the Health Department and the Local Administration Department took various measures, which ultimately resulted in the gradual fall of virus incidence. In Madurai

District, On an average,124 fever camps are held in a day. In Corporation areas so far 4,000 camps have been conducted. In suburban areas 8,000 fever camps have been held. Due to this, the number of affected persons, which was 400 per day, has come down and it is now below 200. Totally 84 containment zones were announced, 35 in Madurai City and 49 in suburban areas and preventive measures are being taken for those in the containment zones.

Though, the State Government is taking various measures to prevent the virus, full co-operation of the general public is most essential. The impact of the virus will be less if people co-operate; then it will be possible to contain the spread of the infection. If the affected person immediately reports the symptom to a hospital, they will conduct the Corona test. If the test is positive, then the doctors will give the necessary treatment immediately and cure the patient. The staff appointed to find the disease-affected persons conduct door-to-door survey. If the staff find anyone has fever, cold, throat pain and cough, the affected person is subjected to examination. As this process is conducted continuously, the virus has been controlled both in Madurai City and in suburban areas.

There are 3 Government hospitals in the city to provide proper treatment to the virus-affected people. Here there are 1,518 beds and in private hospitals 1,124 beds have been arranged. On behalf of the Government, there are 3 Covid Care Centres with a bed strength of 1,150 and in private there is one Covid Care Centre with a bed strength of 520. Again in selected Government Hospitals, 419 beds have been kept ready for virus treatment. In selected Covid Care Centres there are 900 bed facilities, in private Covid Care Centre, the Health Department has made arrangements to provide immediate treatment to 1,490 affected persons.

As far as Madurai City is concerned, the total number of affected persons till August 5th is 11,593. The number of persons who are cured and returned home is 9,219. The number of persons who succumbed is 264. At present, 2,107 persons are under treatment. In Madurai District, as on August 5th, 1,63,492 persons had been tested.

The Madurai Super Speciality Hospital has been developed at a cost of Rs. 150 crore with a bed strength of 350. Madurai District is more or less the capital of the southern Districts. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, with a view to providing high tech medical facilities to people in and around Madurai District wanted the setting up of AIIMS Hospital in Madurai. Hon'ble Prime Minister came in person to lay the foundation stone for the AIIMS Hospital. Soon the construction work for the AIIMS will begin. We have sought fund assistance from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). We have received information from the Central Government that soon an agreement will be signed and funds allotted.

For the convenience of cancer affected poor people who cannot afford treatment at private hospitals, the Government is setting up a cancer control hospital in Madurai at a total cost of Rs.25 crore, including Rs.20 crore

for purchase of equipment and Rs. 5 crore for buildings. The work will be completed within 20 days.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi's Amma Government is a Government for the people. To justify this statement, I announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110, that in all Districts, Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme will be inaugurated. Based on this, in Madurai District 21,600 petitions were received under the scheme. Of these 12,360 petitions were accepted. Of these, 5,906 petitioners were given Old Age Pension and pattas were given to 1,652 persons.

Similarly, accepting the demand for formation of new Taluk Kallikudi was formed in the year 2018. Similarly the demand for a Revenue Division in Tirumangalam area was conceded by the Hon'ble Amma Government in 2019. Hundred days employment guarantee scheme is also functioning in full swing. In Madurai District, 10,956 Self Help Groups are functioning and about Rs.150 crore has been given as loan to these groups; 9,329 working women were given subsidized two wheelers. Melur Combined Water Supply Scheme at a cost of Rs.784 crore had been completed. Using Vaigai Dam as source, Usilampatti Municipality Water Supply Improvement Scheme at an estimate of Rs.73 crore and Sholavandan Town Panchayat Water Supply Improvement Scheme at an estimate of Rs.5.53 crore have been completed. Modernization of Periyar bus stand is going on at a cost of Rs.167 crore. Renovation of the fruit markets is going on at a cost of Rs.12 crore. Restoration of heritage structures is going on at a cost of Rs.42.65 crore. To upgrade the four Masi Street and provide regular drinking water supply, Rs. 53.62 crore has been allotted. To construct multi-storey parking facility is Rs.41.96 crore, to upgrade Vaigai River Rs.84 crore, to set up cultural centre in Thamukkam Grounds Rs.47.7 crore, for underground drainage system Rs.275.8 crore, for Solid Waste Management Policy Rs.25.22 crore and for fixing street lights Rs.30.25 crore allocated.

Steps are being taken to provide water to all the 100 wards in Madurai Corporation through steel pipes at a cost of Rs.1,250 crore from the Mullai Periyar Lower Camp. Through fair price shops rice ration cardholders are already supplied rice, sugar, palm oil and dhal at no cost along with Rs.1,000. Complete lockdown was announced in Madurai Corporation and surrounding areas again and the rice ration cardholders in these areas were again given Rs.1,000. Unorganized workers were also given rice, dhal and palm oil at no cost along with Rs.2,000. Cost free rice, dhal and cooking oil were also given to other State workers. Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing welfare schemes for all those who have lost their livelihood.

A total of 535 work-sheds are functioning in Madurai K.Pudur Industrial Estate, Kappalur Industrial Estate and Kappalur Women's Industrial Estate. In these about 20,000 workers are employed. Through Global

Investors Meet, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) with an investment of Rs.500 crore has started tractor manufacturing. HCL Technologies has started software manufacturing company with an investment of Rs.500 crore that will facilitate employment for 10,000 people. Penguin Apparels Pvt. Ltd., with an Investment of Rs.12 crore has started Garment manufacturing unit. Chain-Sys Software Exports Pvt. Ltd., has started software unit, investing Rs.34 crore.

Under the Emergency Credit Line Gurantee Scheme (ECLGS), 10,951 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises were given Rs.153.42 crore. Under Covid Relief Measures, Rs.7.45 crore has been sanctioned for 73 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. In K.Pudur Industrial Estate, various works, worth Rs. 356.46 crore, is going on. I am happy to announce that with a view to providing employment to educated youth and to improve the economy, Hon'ble Amma's Government has started many new industries and created the environment of employing 1,000 persons.

In Madurai District, check dams across various water bodies have been announced and works are on in full swing. More such schemes are likely to come. When all these schemes are completed, the entire rain water will be saved. Through this, the Government will be able to provide enough water supply to all during the summer season.

Similarly, through the wounderful scheme of 'Kudimaramathu', in Madurai District, various tanks, lakes and ponds where de-silting works are going on with the active participation of local farmers.

Steps are being taken for constructing an over-bridge at Goripalayam Junction in Madurai City by acquiring land at a cost Rs.164.28 crore. Similarly, work is going on for setting up central medians in the important places of the City at a cost of Rs. 47.50 crore. To set up elevated corridor from Periyar Bus stand to Varanasi- Kanniyakumari National Highways, a notice in terms of rule 15(1) has been submitted on behalf of the Government. Steps are being taken for widening the Madurai Airport Road. Estimate is being prepared for an additional road from Sellur Railway over-bridge to Dindigul Road. Modernization of Vaigai North Bank to Anna Nagar – Viraganur Ring Road Junctions, formation of approach roads, construction of medians and land acquisition works are going at a cost of Rs. 26.60 crore. The Government is also taking steps to construct more over-bridges in the District.

The by-pass road from Meenakshi Mission Hospital to Kappalur, constructed at a cost of Rs. 217 crore has been completed and members of the public are making use of it. Sholavandan to Valayapatti road, a high-level bridge on the Paravai - Madurai - Melakkal Road, an approach road near Thuvariman side and an approach road near Paravai side, all these works would be completed once the land acquisition is completed. Hon'ble Amma's Government has taken action to various road works and constructs high level bridges.

Under the Micro Irrigation scheme, micro irrigation facility has been installed in over 34,441 acres at a cost of Rs.43.44 crore, In the current financial year, Rs. 44.93 crore has been allotted and installation work is going on. Similarly for the benefit of farmers in Usilampatti, Tirumangalam, Vadipatti and Melur, 4 godowns of each 1,000 metric tonnes capacity, will be set up in the regulated markets of these areas at a total cost of Rs.5.20 crore. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, so far Rs.111 crore has been given as financial assistance to 1,36,696 farmers. A total of 11,312 maize farmers who were affected by American fall armyworm were given relief of Rs. 7.12 crore by the Hon'ble Amma Government.

Under the crop insurance scheme in Madurai District, 79,470 farmers have been registered in the last 4 years. So far 35,200 farmers have been given compensation of Rs.60 crore. For the welfare of Jasmine farmers, traditional flower centre is to be set up at Madurai with an allotment of Rs.2 crore.

Through the Tamil Nadu Housing Board, a satellite city is to be created on a 573- acre extent of land at a cost of Rs.289 crore. In this, 9,557 plots, school, bus stand, health centre and children's park are being developed. Work is going on to construct 4,740 houses at a cost of Rs. 427.22 crore by Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. In Madurai District, these houses are being constructed at Poonga Nagar, Rajakoor, Karuthapuliampatti, Athikulam, Karadikal, Uchapatti Thoppur and Manjalmedu. Hon'ble Amma Government is the People's Government. That is why priority is given to people's welfare schemes. Therefore, various steps are being taken to make Tamil Nadu the pre-eminent State in the country by giving priority to agriculture and to starting of new industries.

Both the Ministers belonging to Madurai District are working day and night with District Administration in controlling the Corona virus. It is commendable that Amma Kitchen has been set up in the District to provide food 3 times a day to Corona Virus-affected people in the Madurai City area. For this, I congratulate the Hon'ble Ministers and the people here. The entire expense is personally borne by them. On behalf of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, various kinds of assistance are provided. For this, I extend my best wishes, congratulations and greetings to Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly.

The party cadres who had worked with full enthusiasm during the period when Hon'ble Amma was in power, have voluntarily come forward in a similar manner to provide assistance to the affected people during the present regime, which is following the footsteps of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I would like to congratulate them for their initiative. On behalf of the Government, I thank the District Collector, all the officials who co-operate with him and the doctors, nurses, medical personnel, conservancy workers and officials from other Departments, who worked with the front line staff in controlling the Corona virus.

Nandri! Vanakkam! ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister writes to Hon'ble Prime Minister on monetary issues

Centre should 'advance funds to GST Compensation Cess Fund'

As you are aware one of the most crucial fiscal issues facing the nation currently is the payment of compensation on account of the short fall in revenue post implementation of GST. Most States and in particular Tamil Nadu, agreed to the implementation of GST and to support the legislation on the basis of the unequivocal commitment given by the Government of India to compensate the States for any revenue loss. Such compensation is clearly assured in the 101st Constitution Amendment Act and in the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.

So far, no compensation has been released for the shortfalls in revenue collection since April 1, 2020. As on date, a total sum of Rs.12,250.50 crore is due to Tamil Nadu as compensation for shortfall in GST collections, of which Rs.11,459.37 crore has accrued from April to July, 2020. As you are aware, the States have suffered a severe loss in revenue in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and have also been at the forefront of the battle to prevent the spread of the disease. Considerable additional expenditure of nearly Rs.7,000 crore has already been incurred towards upgrading health facilities, providing medical supplies

Text of the D.O. letter dated 31.08.2020 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi.**

and towards relief measures for the most affected. For the economy to restart effectively, State Governments also need to ensure that regular budgetary expenditure on on-going schemes and programmes picks up. Hence, State Governments are in immediate need of resources.

I had already requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister that one-third additional borrowing may be permitted to States over the 2019-2020 level and an untied special grant of Rs.1 lakh crore be released to all States as budgetary support, in addition to other specific grants. This support was sought, anticipating shortfall in State tax revenues, but after assuming that the States would receive the entire GST compensation. As part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Scheme, the Government of India, States were permitted an additional borrowing of

2 per cent of GSDP of which 1.5 per cent was permissible based on implementation of certain reform measures identified by the Government of India. This additional borrowing has been fully factored into our fiscal projections for 2020-2021 and is essentially required, in addition to the full compensation for GST shortfall.

Our stance has consistently been that the Government of India has a moral and legal obligation to pay the compensation for the shortfall in GST collections. We had also indicated that it was for the Government of India to find the necessary funds to compensate the States, including from the Consolidated Fund of India, if there was a shortfall in the cess collections. As a via media in the 41st GST Council meeting held on 27th August, 2020, our representative Thiru. D. Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Personnel and Administrative Reforms, had suggested that the Government of India could mobilise resources and lend the funds required to the GST Compensation Fund and that loan could be serviced through an extension of the GST Cess for a few years beyond 2021-2022. This was a very reasonable and practical suggestion and was agreed to by almost all States.

In this context, I am very concerned about the two options that have been offered to States after the GST Council Meeting held on 27th August, 2020. My first concern is that in both the options suggested by the Government of India, the States are being required to borrow from the market to make good the shortfall in compensation due. This is administratively difficult to implement and more expensive. Further, the reasons being cited for such an arrangement are not persuasive. Whether the Government of India borrows or the State Governments borrow, for rating agencies and others who monitor the macro-economic indicators, it is the overall General Government deficit and borrowing that is relevant. The argument that States borrowing for what is essentially a Government of India obligation is a seemingly better optical arrangement does not appear to be a strong or valid reason. Hence, I reiterate Government of Tamil Nadu's stance that the Government of India should advance funds to the GST Compensation Cess fund, if need be by borrowing in the market and service the debt by an extension of the compensation cess.

Further, in an effort to reduce the total amount of borrowing in 2020-2021, an artificial distinction is being drawn between GST implementation based losses and COVID-19 induced losses. I am heartened by the clear and explicit statement in the note which has been circulated that under the operative sections of the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, compensation is payable for the entire shortfall in revenue collection, even if it is not on account of GST implementation and further that this position has been clarified by the Attorney General and is accepted by the Central Government.

It is important that this position is explicitly reiterated in a formal communication to the States.

What causes concern is that after having made such a categorical statement on the payability of the entire shortfall, in Option I,

only Rs.97,000 crore, assessed to be the shortfall on account of GST implementation alone which is proposed to be borrowed by the State Governments with a special dispensation from GOI and RBI. For the remainder of the shortfall, which is estimated to be Rs.1.38 lakh crore (Rs.2.35 lakh crore (-) Rs.97,000 crore), States do not get any assurance of receiving funds in 2020-2021. They would have to wait for 2-3 years or more, to receive the compensation, out of the cess fund provided GST cess is extended beyond 2021-2022.

In Option-II, while the entire Rs.2.35 lakh crore are to be borrowed by the States, the terms of contracting such loans are much less attractive. More importantly, borrowing of upto 1 per cent of the GSDP already permitted under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Scheme is being withdrawn. This makes Option-II an unattractive proposition and appears to be aimed at penalizing States for legitimately urging the Government of India to devise a scheme to compensate the States for the shortfall in the current year itself, as per the provisions of the Act.

The net impact of the Government of India's proposed two options is to reduce the overall resources available to States in 2020-2021 quite substantially to the extent of about 1 per cent of GDP amounting to nearly Rs.2 lakh crore. This will really hurt spending by States on many crucial COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related expenditure. Welfare programmes and infrastructure creating capital expenditure will suffer greatly. This will impede early resumption of growth momentum in the economy and hurt economic revival.

In these circumstances, I earnestly request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene in this matter, direct the Ministry of Finance to revisit their stance in the matter, and to:

- Agree to a mechanism in which the Government of India raises the required funds as a loan and lends it to the GST Compensation Fund against future cess receipts, so that the GST compensation can be paid in full to the States in 2020-2021.
- Ensure that the States get their full dues of the compensation in the current year itself and reduce neither the compensation payable nor the already announced and committed additional borrowing permissible to States of 2 per cent of GSDP under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Scheme stimulus package in any circumstances.
- Provide a formal and categorical assurance that any spillover of the compensation due will be paid in the period after 31st March, 2022.
- Relax the conditionalities attached to the permission to be accorded by the Government of India to States to borrow under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan Scheme.

These measures will ensure that not only are States treated justly and fairly in matter of being provided the due compensation for the revenue shortfall post implementation of GST, but will also have adequate funds in 2020-2021 to meet their essential expenditure commitments, and can thus effectively contribute to the revival of the economy.

Tamil Nadu goes in for more relaxations while stressing need to follow anti-Corona guidelines

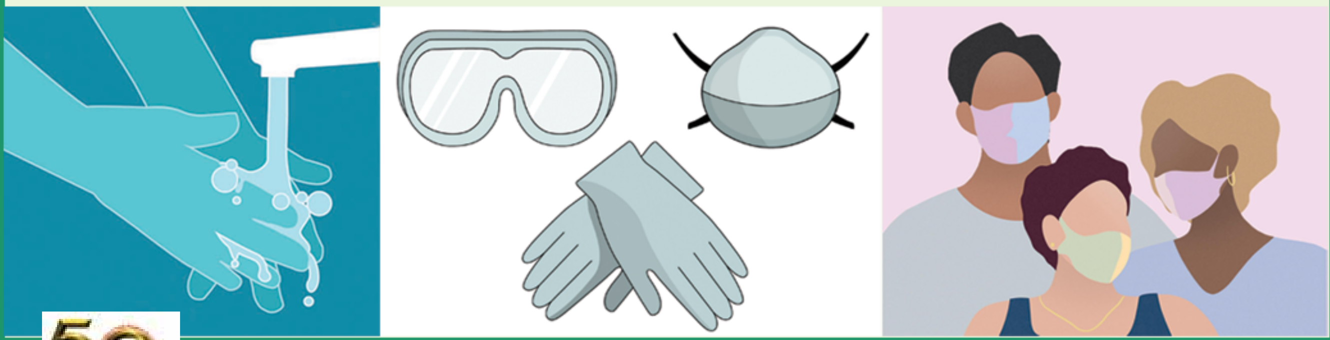
Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami on 02.09.2020 *(English Translation).*

Lockdown is in force in Tamil Nadu from 25.03.2020 under the National Disaster Management Act and on the Central Government's guidelines for preventing Corona virus infections. Besides taking many focussed actions to prevent the infections, Hon'ble Amma's Government has permitted many activities with regulations in consideration of the livelihood of the general public and with the intention of retrieving the economy. Accordingly, it has now permitted public bus transport service within Districts, darshan in all places of worship, opening of commercial complexes, boarding and lodging hotels and extended the lockdown till midnight of 30.09.2020 with certain restrictions.

In the present situation where intra-District bus transport service has been permitted, requests have come from the general public for inter-District travel to attend to important works and to carry out business activities. Considering the interests of the general public, inter-District Government and private bus services are being permitted from 07.09.2020, subject to the observance of the standard operating procedure.

As inter-State train service has already been permitted in select routes, passenger train service is now being permitted within the State also from 07.09.2020, subject to the adoption of the standard operating procedure.

Though the Government has announced many relaxations with public interest in view, this virus infection can be prevented from spreading only if people follow without fail the safety guidelines announced by the Government which include wearing face mask in public places, washing hands often with soap at home and in work places and observing physical distancing in public places. Hence, I affectionately request the people to extend their co-operation to the Government's efforts. ■



September 5 : Birth Anniversary of 'Kappalottiya Tamizhan' V.O.Chidambaranar

In connection with the 149th birth anniversary of Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O.Chidambaranar on 05.09.2020, Hon'ble Ministers, Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation, Director of Information & Public Relations Department and high officials Government paid floral tributes on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government to the decorated portrait placed near the statue of Thiru. V.O. Chidambaranar on Rajaji Salai at Chennai.

A freedom fighter's shipping company to bundle out the British

V.O. Chidambaranar thought of starting a swadeshi shipping company to re-establish the old glory, prevent foreign shipping companies' exploitation of India's wealth and destroy the monopoly of the British in marine trade, one of their strong points. His thought flowered into 'Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company'.

"Once upon a time, ships were sailing from Tamil Nadu to Rome in the West and beyond Java and Sumatra in the East. Through trade, the ancient Tamils lived a glorious and independent life. So, I planned how Tamils should revive their marine trade. It resulted in the formation of Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company' – said V.O.C. "This shipping company, I have started, is not a company merely for commerce; these ships are to bundle out the British from this country lock stock and barrel", he roared.

***Source**: Sudeasi Steam Navigation Company*

Many schemes being implemented in Thiruvarur District, Agro Industries under consideration

Excerpts from the speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami,** at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and containment of COVID-19 in Thiruvarur District at District Collectorate on 28.08.2020 (English Translation).

In Thiruvarur District, 65 fever camps have been conducted in which 74,640 persons have been screened. There are 119 quarantine zones in the District. To identify virus-affected persons, nominated employees are making house to house visits and identifying persons having symptoms of fever, phlegm and sore throat for being subjected to virus test. If they have Corona virus infection, they are given immediate treatment.

Under the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme, during the financial year 2019-2020, house site pattas were given to 10,014 eligible persons. Based on the petitions given through the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme and directly by people, Old Age Pension has been given in large numbers in the District. Under the above scheme 25,861 petitions were received; solutions were found for 13,178 petitions. Of this 3,377 persons received old-age pension.

Under the Green House scheme and under the Prime Minister's Housing scheme, more houses have been constructed in the District. In Thiruvarur Municipality 2,752 houses have been given underground drainage connection

under the Underground Drainage Scheme. In Mannargudi Municipality 1,212 drinking water connections have been given out of the target of 7,342 connections proposed to be given. In Koothanallur Municipality, under the Drinking Water Supply Scheme, out of 3,900 drinking water connections, 555 connections have been given. In Thiruthuraipoondi Municipality, out of 2,968 connections, 566 connections have been given. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission during the financial year 2020-2021, tenders have been finalized for drinking water connection to 14,740 houses in 97 hamlets under 72 Panchayats at a cost of Rs. 19 crore.

In Thiruvarur District there are 8,321 Self Help Groups. In the last 3 years, bank-linked loans to the tune of Rs.588 crore have been given. Under the Amma Two-wheeler Scheme in the last 3 years 4,445 working women have been given two wheelers with a subsidy amount of Rs. 11.11 crore.

Irrigation has been expanded for the benefit of the sub-basin areas of Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Thanjavur Districts. The renovation and modernization scheme at a cost of Rs. 3,384 crore is under consideration. Like these, so many schemes are being implemented through the Public Works Department. Many check dams are set up in the District through the PWD. Similarly, many sluices have been renovated.

Through the State Highways Department, many high-level bridges and new bridges across railway gates have been constructed. Land acquisition work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 5 crore for setting up a 2.5 km long bypass road from Velankanni-Thiruthuraipoondi Road to Mayiladuthurai- Thiruthuraipoondi Road. A 10 km long bypass road for Thiruthuraipoondi Town, bypass road for Thiruvarur town, Ring road for Mannargudi town and a bypass road to Valangaiman have been planned and land acquisition work is going on. Rs. 15 lakh has been allotted for preparing a detailed plan for setting up a bypass road to Nannilam town. Mayiladuthurai-Thiruthuraipoondi Road at a cost of Rs. 336.20 crore, Thanjavur-Mannargudi-Thiruthuraipoondi-Vedaranyam-Kodikarai Road at a cost of Rs.154 crore, Kumbakonam-Mannargudi-Adhiramapattinam Road at a cost Rs.191 crore are to be developed and converted into two-way lanes and for this purpose land acquisition work is going on.

In Thiruvarur District, 1,33,316 farmers who were affected due to severe drought during the financial year 2016-2017, have been given Rs. 161.21 crore as drought relief. Under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance scheme, in the last 4 years, of the 5,65,392 registered farmers, 3,64,523 farmers have been given 64 per cent compensation to the tune of Rs. 1,100 crore as relief for crop loss.

In this District, a food park is to be set up at a cost of Rs. 10 crore. Middle schools are to be upgraded into high schools and high schools to higher secondary schools. New Primary Health Centres are to be opened in rural areas. Two Government Arts and Science Colleges, one each in Kudavasal and Nannilam, a polytechnic in Valangaiman and an ITI in Kottur have been set up by Hon'ble Amma's Government to

enable poor students in rural areas get higher education. Many more schemes are on the anvil for Thiruvarur District.

Hon'ble Minister requested starting of industries in this area. Despite Corona, Tamil Nadu has attracted Rs.31.000 crore investment in the last 5 months alone. Tamil Nadu is the only State which has attracted more investments during the Corona period.

Hon'ble Minister pointed out that in Thiruvarur District, except agriculture there is no major industry. His demand for setting up industries is under consideration of the Government. I would like to inform you that starting of agro industries based on agriculture produce in the district is under consideration.

To enable farmers in tail-end areas get water, all canals have been de-silted. To save even the last drop of rain water, all the water bodies, including tanks, ponds and canals have been de-silted. The Government, giving priority to water management, has been implementing various schemes. I am happy to inform you that Hon'ble Amma's Government has been working on various development schemes for the welfare of the people of the District.

NEWS IN PICTURE

Tamil Classical Poetry in French and German

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, released the French and German translation works of 1,837 select poems from 'Pathinenkeezhkanakku' at the Secretariat, Chennai on 07.09.2020. The International Institute of Tamil Research, functioning under the Department of Tamil Development translated the poems.

News in Picture

Development works of Thiruvarur District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** declared open 14 completed works, valued at Rs.11.50 crore and laid the foundation stone for 23 new schemes, valued at Rs.22.66 crore at a function held at Thiruvarur District Collectorate on 28.08.2020.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** distributed Government assistance to beneficiaries at a function held at Thiruvarur District Collectorate on 28.08.2020. Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Thiru. R.Kamaraj and Collector of Thiruvarur District Thiru. T. Anand I.A.S., and other high Government officials were present on the occasion.

Hon'ble Chief Minister releases 'Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy 2020'

Tamil Nadu sets ambitious targets for Electronic manufacture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** released the Tamil Nadu Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy - 2020 at the Secretariat, Chennai on 07.09.2020 *(English Translation)*.

At present, Tamil Nadu is emerging as the premier centre in India in the manufacture of electronic hardware. Its contribution is 16 per cent of the India's total electronics components manufacture and the State occupies the second position in the manufacture of computers, electronics and optical products.

The State serves as a robust hub for the manufacture of mobile phones, computers and their spare parts, industrial electronics products, consumer electronics and auto-electronics spare parts. On the electronics manufacturing corridor from Sriperumbudur to Oragadam, major electronics manufacturing companies, such as Samsung, Flextronics, Dell, Foxconn, BYD, Sanmina and Nokia Siemens Networks have set up their manufacturing units. To retain the present primary position in the electronics field, to attract more new investments in this field and to make a mark in the State's contribution in the new fields of 'semi conductor fabrication' and 'electronics repair parks', the Tamil Nadu Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy - 2020 is necessary.

Major objectives of the Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Policy.

1. To increase the State's electronic Industry output to 100 billion US dollars by the year 2025.

2. To increase the contribution of Tamil Nadu to the country's electronics exports to 25 per cent.

3. To improve the semi conductor fabrication segment in Tamil Nadu.

4. To provide skill training to one lakh persons by the year 2024 with the aim of meeting the incremental human resources requirement demands of the Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Department.

5. To increase the level of value-added Cell phones, LED manufacture, Fabless Chips, PCBs, Solar Photovoltaic Cells, Medical Electronics and Vehicle Electronics substantially.

6. To achieve the above aims, an environment is to be created through research and enhancement plans.

7. To create an atmosphere conducive to ESDMs and especially encourage start up companies involved in design, enhancement and manufacturing.

This policy gives the following financial incentives to entrepreneurs who invest in Electronics Design and Manufacturing fields.

1. 30 per cent capital subsidy.

2. Subsidy for land lease – Those who invest in industrially backward Districts, 50 per cent subsidy for purchase of land, subject to certain terms and conditions.

3. Five per cent interest subsidy for term loans received from financial institutions.

4. Fifty to 100 per cent stamp duty exemption to Electronics Design and Manufacturing units.

5. Training allowance of Rs.4,000 for first-time employees up to a maximum of 6 months and Rs. 6,000 per month for 6 months for female employees.

6. Exemption from electricity tax for 5 years.

7. Subsidy for Intellectual capital and enhanced quality certificate - 50 per cent subsidy up to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh on expenses incurred for getting quality certification for individual and Rs.1 crore for companies.

8. Environment protection infrastructure subsidy as mentioned in the existing industrial policy 2014.

9. Special package concession for large investment or additional large investment/ employment opportunities and special industrial climate.

Other Concessions:

1. In every EMC, one skill training centre will be set up with private participation. More than one lakh persons will be given skill training.

2. Housing colonies to be developed in and around the Electronics Design and Manufacturing Units for the employees of the units. .

3. To support start ups with start up industries subsidy and seed subsidy through Entrepreneur Development Enterprises.

4. Research and Development Support: Twin cities agreement and in co-ordination with universities and industrial units for setting up research and development centres and expansion of the Electronics testing centres.

5. To encourage Fab, an employment committee will be set up. Those, who invest in Fab will be given special incentive package.

6. Electronics Repair Parks and Electronics waste management facilities will be set up.

Thanjavur District moving ahead with several developmental schemes

Excerpts from the presidential speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and containment of COVID-19 in Thanjavur District at District Collectorate on 28.08.2020 *(English Translation)*.

In Thanjavur District, 2,227 fever camps were conducted in which 1,04,558 persons were screened. Through these camps, persons with symptoms of Corona virus were identified and given treatment.

In the Kumbakonam Government District Hospital Complex, Gynaecology and Children Welfare Centre Building is being constructed. In the Government Hospital at Boothalur, in-patient building, at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh is about to be completed and made available for public use. In the Pattukkottai Government Hospital, Gynaecology and Children's Welfare Centre has been completed at a cost of Rs. 4 crore.

In Thanjavur District, under the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme, 33,830 petitions were received. Of these petitions, 21,362 were taken up for consideration and solutions were found. During

2019-2020, house site pattas were distributed to 6,179 persons.

Under the Rural Development Department, canals to a length of 9,053 kms have been de-silted at a cost of Rs. 52 crore.

Under Green House Scheme in the last 4 years, 2,737 schemes have been completed out of the 3,445 schemes that were started. The rest of the schemes are in progress. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), in the last 4 years, construction of 25,728 houses was taken up and 15,437 houses have been completed. Works on other houses are under progress.

In the Kumbakonam Panchayat Union, tender proposal at an estimate of Rs.200 crore is under consideration for Combined Drinking Water Scheme for 134 tenements. For 67 tenements under Kumbakonam, Tirupananthal and Tiruvidaimarudur Unions and 252 colonies in Papanasam and Ammapet Unions, estimates have been prepared for Combined Drinking water schemes and the works are going on.

Under the Smart City Scheme, in the Thanjavur Corporation limits 48 works are going on at a cost of Rs. 943 crore. A new office building for Thanjavur Corporation, built at a cost of Rs. 6.50 crore was declared open by me on 28.05.2020.

In Thanjavur Corporation Limits, work on the underground sewerage scheme at a cost of Rs.70 crore is in progress and it is expected to be completed by January 2021. Works are going on at a cost of Rs. 191 crore for creating a new water source in Coleroon river in Thanjavur Corporation and repairing damaged main and distribution pipes lines of drinking water supply. These works, which will be completed by 19.02.2021, will meet the drinking water requirements of the increasing population.

A number of colleges have been opened in the District by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and by Hon'ble Amma's Government. A Government Arts and Science College in Peravurani, a Government Engineering College in Sengipatti, a Polytechnic College at Papanasam and an Agricultural College at Eachankottai have been set up by Hon'ble Amma's Government. A Veterinary College and a Research Centre in Orathanadu and an ITI in Tirubuvanam have been started. It was during the Hon'ble Amma's period that Thanjavur Corporation was formed.

The Government has got more compensation for the farmers under the crop insurance scheme. During the severe drought during 2016-2017, relief was provided to affected farmers.

As a mark of victory for the farmers of the District, Hon'ble Amma's Government declared the Delta Districts as Protected Agricultural Zone, which is one of the long-pending demands of the delta farmers. This is a historic achievement. Similarly it is Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who made it possible to publish the Cauvery Tribunal Order in the Government's gazette. Following this, Hon'ble Amma's Government also legally fought the issue in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and secured the rights of Tamil Nadu over Cauvery water. It is Hon'ble Amma's Government that has ensured that we get our share of Cauvery water. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates marriage hall and Annadhanam halls in temples

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open, on behalf of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, through video conferencing at the Secretariat, on 14.08.2020, a modern marriage hall, constructed at a site belonging to Arulmigu Marundeeswarar temple at Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai at a cost of Rs.20.10 crore and 'Annadhanam' halls constructed at a cost of Rs.1.53 crore at the Arulmigu Pralayakaleswarar Temple, Pennadam, Thittakudi Taluk, Cuddalore District, Arulmigu Choleeswarar Temple, Arcotkuppam, Tiruttani Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Arulmigu Vaidhyanathaswami Temple, Madavarvalagam, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar District.

The temples of Tamil Nadu shine as the repository of the State's culture, the seat of spirituality and a treasure-house of artistic skills. The Government of Tamil Nadu that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is implementing many measures through Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department like safeguarding and maintaining temple assets, ensuring daily puja in them without any interruption and providing facilities to devotees.

As part of this, the modern marriage hall has been constructed on an area of 84,592 sq.ft. at a cost of Rs.20.10 crore, a site owned by Arulmigu Marundeeswarar temple in Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai, with a seating capacity for 1,388 persons, a dining hall to accommodate 552 persons and all other facilities including drinking water, toilet and parking lot for vehicles.

The Annadhanam hall at Arulmigu Pralayakaleswarar temple in Pennadam, Cuddalore District has come up on an area of 2,464 sq.ft. at a cost of Rs.50 lakh, the one at Arulmigu Choleeswaraswami temple (a sub-shrine of Tiruttani Arulmigu Subramaniaswami), Arcotkuppam, Thiruvallur District on 2,110 sq.ft. at a cost of Rs. 53 lakh and that at Arulmigu Vaidhyanathaswami temple, Madavarvalagam, Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar District on 2,016 sq.ft. at an estimate of Rs.50 lakh. The marriage hall and the 3 dining halls, costing totally Rs.21.63 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

As part of the event, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed appointment orders for the post of Junior assistant to 5 persons as a mark of issuing such orders to 59 persons to fill up vacancies in the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

Proactive testing and treatment ensure high rate of recovery, low mortality

Tamil Nadu protects the livelihoods of people while clamping down on Corona

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 30.08.2020
(English Translation).

Lockdown has been in force in Tamil Nadu since 25.03.2020 under the National Disaster Management Act as per the guidelines of the Central Government. Hon'ble Amma's Government has been functioning with focussed measures to protect the people from the Corona Virus and provide relief. Only due to these steps, the virus spread in Tamil Nadu has been under control and the number of persons cured of the disease is also more in the country. The mortality rate due to the disease is less in Tamil Nadu.

Due to the special initiatives taken by the State Government, the welfare schemes of the Government have reached the people in large measure, protecting them from economic impairment and reducing the unemployment rate by one sixth. These schemes have also gradually increased the income of people and saved them from economic damage caused by the Corona Virus, according to various surveys.

Based on the review meetings conducted by me on various days, the opinion provided by 12 co-ordination committees of senior IAS Officers, the views expressed by District Collectors in my video conferencing meeting with them and by medical and health experts during their meeting with me, the lockdown in Tamil Nadu has been extended till 31.08.2020. Considering the livelihood of people and with the view of retrieving the economy, restrictions on various works have been withdrawn.

Based on various review meetings and the review meeting conducted on 29.08.2020 with the District Collectors, Medical and Public Health experts and the views expressed by Senior Ministers, the Lockdown, imposed under the National Disaster Management Act, which is to end on 31.08.2020 in Tamil Nadu, has been extended up to the midnight 12 of 30.09.2020 with the existing restrictions and relaxations. However, taking into consideration the need for retrieving the economy and the seriousness of the Corona Virus infection, the Government has allowed more relaxations along with the existing relaxations for the following services

on 01.09.2020 throughout Tamil Nadu, except in Containment Zones.

1. People are allowed to travel within the Districts in the State without ePass. However, the ePass system will continue for those entering Tamil Nadu from abroad and from other States by air, rail and road. Those who apply for ePass with Aadhaar, details of ticket and telephone/ cell phone will be given the ePass immediately through computer auto generated mode.

2. Members of the general public will be allowed to have darshan in all places of worship. For this a Standard Operating Procedure will be issued by the Government soon. Through this the number of persons coming for darshan to the places of worship in a day will be assessed and based on this the maximum number of devotees can be fixed. Only a specific number of devotees will be allowed inside the temple and inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temples at any given time. In places of worship, public are allowed only up to 8 pm.

3. Intra-District services of Public and Private buses and the Chennai Metro Bus services will be allowed from 01.09.2020 with Standard Operating Procedure.

4. Metro Train services will be permitted from 07.09.2020 by complying with the Standard Operating Procedure.

5. Shopping malls, all showrooms and big format stores will be permitted with 100 per cent employees. But, they should comply with the guidelines issued by the Central Government regarding air-conditioning facility and follow the Standard Operating Procedure. However, theatres in malls are not permitted to operate.

6. All shops in Tamil Nadu are permitted to open till 8 pm.

7. By following the already announced Standard Operating Procedure by the Government, Hotels and Tea shops are allowed to function from 6 am. to 8 pm. Parcel services are allowed up to 9 pm.

8. All industries and Information Technology companies are permitted to function with cent per cent employees. However, IT companies are requested to encourage employees to work from home except those who are required for carrying out unavoidable functions.

9. Hotels with lodging facilities, resorts, recreation clubs and other clubs are permitted to function by following Standard Operating Procedures.

10. Parks and playgrounds are allowed to open for physical exercise and sports training but they should follow the Standard Operating Procedures. However, spectators are not allowed in the playgrounds.

11. Skilling and industrial training institutes are permitted to function from 21.09.2020 by complying with Standard Operating Procedure.

12. Government offices, which are now functioning with 50 per cent employees, can function with 100 per cent staff from

01.09.2020. However, a nodal officer will be appointed to ensure adherence of Standard Operating Procedures, to prevent the staff with symptoms of Corona Virus from attending office and ensure immediate medical examination and further treatment for them.

13. Banks and other allied institutions are allowed to function with 100 per cent staff.

14. The entry of outside tourists to the Nilgiris, Kodaikanal, Yercaud and other hill stations will be controlled and only the visitors with ePass issued by the respective District Collectors will be allowed to enter the hill stations.

15. Film shooting is allowed with the Standard Operating Procedure with a maximum of 75 employees. Spectators are not allowed to witness the shooting.

16. The complete lockdown which was in force on Sundays will be lifted from the month of September.

17. Train movement between States is allowed only on permitted routes. However, Intra-State movement of passenger trains is not allowed till 15.09.2020. Decision on allowing train services within the State after 15.09.2020 will be taken depending on the situation prevailing at that time.

18. New Protocol for Quarantine and Testing for Corona Virus infection will be issued for the air and train passengers coming from abroad and other States.

19. The number of flights allowed to land in Chennai airport from other States has been increased from 25 to 50. In the case of Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Thoothukudi and Salem airports, the existing situation will continue.

General: The existing ban of the Criminal Procedure Code 144 will continue in the State and not more than 5 persons are allowed to gather at a place.

The lockdown in the Containment Zones in the State will continue without any relaxations.

The existing restrictions for the following activities now in force in the State will continue till a new order comes into force.

Schools, Colleges and Research Institutes and other educational institutions; However, online education by the above institutions are permitted and encouraged. Cinema Theatres, Swimming Pools, Entertainment / Amusement Parks, Big Auditoriums, Beach, Zoos and Tourist spots, where large number of people are expected to assemble;

Ban on international air traffic will continue, except in routes permitted by the Union Home Ministry.

Suburban train services

Ban on religious meetings, social and political activities and cultural shows of entertainment, educational functions, other meetings and processions will continue.

Wearing masks by the public while going out and in public places has been made compulsory. Members of the public should frequently wash their hands with soap while they are in their homes and in working places. Only

if people fully co-operate with the Government by wearing masks in public places, maintaining social distance and avoiding going out when not essential, the spread of the virus can be controlled.

Though the speed of the virus spread has decreased, the number of affected persons is substantial. This continues despite the restrictions implemented in the State and the rigorous testing being conducted in quarantine zones. So, the Government has been forced to extend the lockdown in the State. The extension of the lockdown may control the spread of the virus. So, the public is requested to co-operate with measures taken by the Government. The virus spread is being monitored and the Government will announce withdrawal of more restrictions from time to time depending on the virus spread. ■

Hon'ble Amma's Government secures win for Government Doctors on issue of sub-reservation for PG courses

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami on 01.09.2020 (English Translation).

In the post-graduate medical courses, it is a long time practice in Tamil Nadu to make a sub-reservation of 50 per cent for State Government Doctors in the State's quota of 50 per cent. The Medical Council of India (MCI) issued regulatory procedures for the post-graduate medical education, affecting this practice. In the case filed by the Tamil Nadu Medical Officers Association in the Supreme Court against these regulations, the Government of Tamil Nadu appointed senior advocates in support of the case and strongly argued that the sub-reservation, already in vogue in Tamil Nadu in the post-graduate medical courses should be continued.

On 31.08.2020, the Supreme Court delivered a historic verdict in the case. It said: " Sub-reservation for State Government Doctors is not opposed to post-graduate regulatory procedures and hence State Governments can make sub-reservation in post-graduate medical courses".

I am happy to inform the people that, it is Hon'ble Amma's Government that has established the right to allot a sub-reservation for our Government Doctors who render medical service to rural people, hill residence and the poor in the post-graduate medical courses through a legal battle in Hon'ble Supreme Court and protected the sub-reservation. ■

While controlling Corona pandemic and protecting livelihoods...

Steps taken for all-round development of Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami,** after reviewing the various development schemes and the anti-Corona measures in Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts, at the Tirunelveli District Collectorate on 07.08.2020 *(English Translation).*

I bow before the Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Welcome to all of you.

The Corona Virus, which has struck panic among people all over the world, has spread in Tamil Nadu also. To control the virus, Hon'ble Amma's Government has formulated special schemes and brought down the spread of the virus in the State through them. Only in Tamil Nadu, the number of tests conducted is the highest in the country. Similarly, the number of persons cured from the disease has increased. The mortality percentage also less in Tamil Nadu.

Both Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts have sufficient medical supplies. Enough beds have been arranged to give proper treatment to affected persons. More doctors, nurses and other medical personnel have been appointed to provide immediate treatment to the virus-

affected people without any slackness. Fever camps are being conducted in different parts of the Districts to identify disease-affected persons and subjected them to immediate treatment. In containment zones, disinfectants are being sprayed.

The Government has taken the necessary steps to supply essential commodities to the people. For the affected persons, essential commodities are distributed at their door-step itself. The Government is of the view that the livelihood of people should not be affected due to lockdown effected to contain the Corona Virus spread and for this the Government has taken a number of steps. Rice card holders are being given rice, cooking oil, dhaal, sugar at no cost in addition to a relief of Rs.1,000 in cash. Manual workers are being given a relief of Rs.2,000 in cash, rice, dhaal and cooking oil at no cost.

Other State workers, working in Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts who wanted to return to their native Districts, were sent back at the Government's expense. The Government took steps without affecting the livelihood of people. 100 per cent of agricultural operations is going on in full swing as the Government was careful in protecting agriculture. We have seen to it that there is cent per cent enrolment under the 100-day employment scheme. In this manner, the Government ensured that the livelihood of rural people was not affected in any way. Similarly, as the Women's Self Help groups from village to town are given the necessary credit facilities without any interruption, the livelihood of women is not affected in any way.

Those who are affected by other diseases are given proper treatment. The Government is closely monitoring them. Two-wheelers are being given to working women at a subsidized price. Work on Rural drinking water supply schemes already announced by the Government, is going on. Some of the schemes have been completed and brought to the use of the public. Other works are going on. The Government is taking steps to start many new industries in these two Districts.

The Global Investors Meet, hosted by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 2015, followed by another global meet in 2019 by Hon'ble Amma's Government have yielded many projects. Many Memoranda of Understanding have been signed in these two global meets.

Road facilities have been improved in these two Districts. More bridges have been constructed. Steps are being taken to de-silt all lakes, tanks, ponds and drinking water tanks in these Districts under the 'Kudimaramathu' schemes. Every year, a certain number of tanks in these Districts are selected for de-silting, funds are allotted and the work is carried out with the participation of farmers and local people. We are implementing the scheme with the full participation of the people. This is a wonderful scheme. With a view to save and

conserve every drop of rain water, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been implementing this scheme successfully. Tanks and ponds which have not been de-silted for many years are being de-silted with the participation of the farmers. The Government also permitted the farmers to take the alluvial soil removed from the tanks to be used as natural manure. Sluices are repaired. Boundaries of canals are cleaned. Due to these activities, the depth of the tanks was increased and their water carrying capacity enhanced. This increased the ground water table in the surrounding areas, which get sufficient water for drinking and irrigation.

To conserve rain water which is going waste into the sea and to improve the ground water level, the Government has allotted Rs. 1,000 crore under three-year plan and started constructing check dams across streams and rivers. To implement the Water Management scheme, Hon'ble Amma's Government formed a five-member committee consisting of 2 retired Chief Engineers and 3 retired Superintending Engineers two years ago. In the last 2 years, the committee toured the entire State and submitted a report to the Government suggesting various plans to save water going waste into the sea. Based on the report, the Government has devised many schemes and is implementing them. Based on the demands submitted by the Hon'ble Ministers, MLA's and the general public, check dams are being constructed in many places.

The linking of Thamirabarani-Karumeniyaru-Nambiyaru project has been divided into 4 stages and Rs.160 crore has been allotted for the fourth stage and the work is to start soon. Land acquisition work is at the finishing stage and it is likely to be completed by December 2021 and the Government is taking steps to dedicate the scheme for the use of the public.

Tractors, seeds and fertilizers are supplied to farmers at subsidized rates. Farm ponds are set up. In this manner, the Government has been implementing various schemes for the benefit of the public. Big Revenue Taluks are divided and new Taluks formed. A new Division has been formed at Sankarankoil.

In the current year, the Government Arts and Science College to be started at Alankulam and Sankarankoil. The Government has taken steps to construct buildings for the Government Arts and Science College at Sankarankoil. Funds have been allotted for constructing sufficient buildings for 2 Government colleges, under the jurisdiction of Radhapuram Assembly constituency. As far as Hon'ble Amma's Government is concerned, it gives priority to education. Only in Tamil Nadu the number of students studying higher education in the country has increased. When Hon'ble Amma took over as the Chief Minister of the State in 2011, the student percentage in higher education was only 32 per cent. During Hon'ble

Amma's regime and in the current Hon'ble Amma Government's regime due to opening of more colleges in rural areas offering education at a lesser fee, the percentage has increased to 50 per cent. Today, Tamil Nadu occupies the number one status in higher education. To provide quality education to all, the Government opened new primary schools, middle schools, high schools and higher secondary schools and increased the percentage of educated students in the State. As Hon'ble Amma's Government gave priority to all fields and took adequate steps, the economic status of the people in the State has improved.

The Corona Virus is invisible to the naked eye and easily spreads from the affected persons to others. There is a possibility that the disease-affected person may succumb to death. So, I appeal to people to take this into consideration and follow the guidelines announced by the Government.

Many people complain that they find it difficult to get ePass. To sanction ePass in the Districts, a committee has been functioning at the respective Collectorates. To enable people get ePass quickly, 2 committees are functioning. If ePass is required for any emergency situation, it is sanctioned immediately. I would like to inform here that order has been issued to the Collectors to follow a simple procedure for issuing ePass to the public.

As far as this Government is concerned, its prime motive is the welfare of the people. The Government's primary duty is to provide drinking water, education, road facilities and medical facilities to the people. I am proud to say that we are providing these facilities in an exemplary manner. Recently, the Tirunelveli Government Medical College's multi-specialty hospital has come up in seven storeys at a cost of Rs. 150 crore and with a bed strength of 330. This hospital has been brought to public use. Apart from this multi-specialty hospital, the intake of students in the Government Medical College, which was 150 students studying MBBS has been increased to 250 students studying MBBS by the addition of 100 more students. Similarly, under JICA funding Rs. 51.11 crore has been allotted for the purchase of new equipment, valued at Rs. 10 crore, for the Tirunelveli Government Medical College, Rs.20.01 crore for constructing new buildings for the Kandiyaperi Government Hospital and Rs.21 crore for installing new Equipment. For cancer affected person to get treatment at an affordable cost in Government hospitals, we are installing new equipments. We will install a modern Linear Accelerator at the Government hospital, Tirunelveli soon. In these ways, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been providing many facilities required by the people.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon’ble Chief Minister explains gradual return to post-COVID normalcy

MSME entrepreneurs offered all help for starting industries in Southern Districts

Speech made by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, while chairing a meeting with the office bearers of the Federation of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Associations of Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts, at the Tirunelveli District Collectorate on 07.08.2020 *(English Translation)*.

The primary policy of Hon’ble Amma’s Government is to start more industries in Tamil Nadu.

Following the Global Investment Meet organized by the Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in Chennai in 2015, Hon’ble Amma’s Government hosted the Global Investment Meet in 2019 in which many Memorandum of Understanding were signed and steps were taken for starting new industries. Even during this Corona Virus period, we have attracted investments and 40 Memorandum of Understandings worth Rs.30,000 crore have been signed with industries of various countries. We have created a situation wherein 67,000 people will get employment opportunities. This is a great achievement. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the country which has attracted more investments during this testing Corona virus period. Similarly, Tamil Nadu is the only State which has created more job opportunities.

I would like to assure you that the Government will take the necessary steps to address the demands of the federation. You demanded that, more industries should be set up in the Southern Districts. The Government also wishes the same. When Hon’ble Idhaya Deivam Amma was the Chief Minister, she announced special schemes for the Southern Districts and through them made arrangements for starting new industries. Following Hon’ble Amma’s path, as informed by the Industries Secretary, the present Government will give 50 per cent subsidy for the land value if an entrepreneur starts a new industry in the Southern Districts. In addition, we will also give subsidy for starting the factory. The license for the new industry is processed through Single Window Scheme and

issued as early as possible. In this manner, the Government is offering many incentives and so it is possible to start new industries without any problem.

Other State workers, who worked in Tamil Nadu, were sent back to their native States through trains at Government expense. I was told that, the Industrialists had submitted a memorandum to the District Collector that the other State workers, who went to their native places due to Corona Virus, want to return to Tamil Nadu and join duty. The Government has issued orders permitting them to return to Tamil Nadu. Other State workers who return have to undergo Corona Virus test in any of the Government hospitals. Workers who test positive will be given the required treatment by the Government. If they test negative, they can be re-employed by following the guidelines prescribed by the State Government.

At present the issue of ePass has been simplified. The Government has issued clear instructions to the District Administration that the issue of ePass should not create any problem for the applicant. Other State workers, who worked in industries and returned to their native States due to Corona Virus, can be brought back by the respective industrialists at any point of time. They have to give details like the worker's name and address to the respective District Collectors, who will make the necessary arrangements for issuing the ePass. It is enough if they renew it once a month. A committee is already functioning in the Districts to issue ePass immediately to those carrying out essential services. Order has been issued for forming an additional committee so that, the 2 committees can dispose of the ePass applications at the earliest. There is no bar in issuing the ePass. But, the pass must be for genuine reasons.

As far as transport is concerned, already the Government has decided and announced that transport will resume at the regional level. But, at present we have to prevent the spread of Corona Virus. This is a life and death question of the people. Due to strong measures taken by the Government, the State is at the forefront in preventing the Corona virus spread. Mortality rate has come down. The number of persons cured of the disease has increased. In the neighbouring States, the mortality rate has increased. In those States, if the test is conducted for 25,000 people, 10,000 test positive for the virus. But, in Tamil Nadu, if the test is conducted for 62,000 people, the virus is found among 5,200 people. The Government has taken various measures to gradually reduce even this spread of the virus. Some infected people show no symptoms of the disease. But, it is the primary duty of the Government to save the precious lives of people. That is why the Government is cautious and is relaxing the restrictions gradually so that, normalcy is restored in the State. This is the aim of the Government and that is why various restrictions have been enforced. These measures are to safeguard the people and not to harass them.

Similarly, if workers working in industries follow the guidelines issued by the Government they can protect themselves from the virus. All the industries should therefore strictly follow the guidelines issued by the Government and function efficiently. I thank all those who have attended this meeting at the invitation of the Government.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Anna medals announced for Uniformed services personnel

Every year, on September 15, the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, Chief Minister's medals for personnel in uniform are announced and distributed by way of recognizing their meritorious services and appreciating their involvement and dedication in work. Officers and staff of the Departments of Police, Fire and Rescue services, Prison, Home Guards, Tamil Nadu Fingerprint and Forensic Sciences come under the category of personnel in uniform.

This year, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed presentation of Chief Minister's Anna Medals to 100 officers/staff in Police Department from the level of Superintendent to First Grade Constable, to 10 officers/staff in Fire and Rescue Services Department from the level of Deputy Director to Fireman, to 10 officers/staff in Prison Department from the level of Assistant Jailor to First Grade Warder, to 5 officers/staff in the Home Guard Force from the level of Zonal Commandant to Home Guard, to 2 Deputy Police Superintendents in Fingerprint Division and to 2 officers in the Forensic Division – Deputy Director/ Forensic Officer, in recognition of their meritorious service. The medalists will be given a bronze and a lumpsum grant, according to their positions and medal rules.

The Chief Minister's Gallantry Award will be presented to Thiruvalargal S. Veeraraj, Station Officer and S.Selvam, upgraded frontline firefighter of Palayamkottai Fire and Rescue Services station, for saving a 45-year-old man, Thiru. S. Ganesan from commiting suicide on 15.08.2020 by jumping from a 70 ft. high municipal overhead tank at Xavier colony, Tirunelveli. They will be given a cash award of Rs.5 lakh each.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister will present these medals to the medalists at a function on a later date.

Despite inter-State travel, Namakkal people keep Corona on leash

Many schemes being implemented for Namakkal District with expedition

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, at the review meeting on the progress of development schemes and containment of COVID-19 in Namakkal District, at District Collectorate on 21.08.2020 *(English Translation).*

I convey my greetings to all.

Namakkal District is known for its lorry transport. It is also a District greatly engaged in rig works. It is a forerunner in egg production in Tamil Nadu and also has a large number of sago production units. It has a sizeable section of farmers also. It would be no exaggeration to say that Namakkal District thus excels in many spheres and is a developed District.

Above all, Namakkal is a premier District in education with more number of schools and colleges. It turns out a larger number of students eligible to pursue technical education. This review meeting is being held today for a District that has so many excellent features.

The Corona virus infection has threatened people globally, spread into India and Tamil Nadu and has affected people's livelihood. Hon'ble Amma's Government continues to take all efforts needed to prevent the virus from spreading. Though there is inter-State travel by those engaged in lorry transport and in the rig industry, it is a matter of pride that Namakkal District continues to be the premier District in Corona Virus prevention: this has been made possible by the adoption of correct procedures like continuous testing, appropriate treatment to those exhibiting symptoms of the infection and curing them, by the District Administration and the Health, Local Administration and Revenue Departments.

At the initial stage, the virus spread in the District was high, but now it has started abating gradually, compared to other Districts, due to the steps taken by the Namakkal District Administration on the advice given by Hon'ble Amma's Government. The District Administration has brought about cures by conducting fever camps on a large scale, testing people in affected areas through mobile hospital and by giving the needed treatment to persons with symptoms of the virus. The virus spread has been prevented through house to house testing. As the District Administration threw itself wholly into this prevention work, the Corona Virus is under control in Namakkal District.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has provided all facilities to stop the Corona Virus spread. There are sufficient beds to receive patients; there is enough stock of medical testing accessories. No vaccine has so far been found for this virus; still our doctors are creating conditions to cure the patients by increasing their immunity by administering 'kabasura' kudineer, zinc and vitamin tablets.

On the part of the Government, appropriate treatment is given to the satisfaction of the affected persons. In the whole of India, Tamil Nadu alone conducts the highest number of tests. Likewise, the testing centres are also more here. As about 68,000 persons are tested throughout Tamil Nadu every day, the virus infection spread has been largely prevented in the State. Compared to neighbouring states, less than about 6,000 persons are found to be affected in the testing of 68,000 persons.

At this hour, I affectionately request the people to extend full co-operation to the rigorous efforts taken by Government to return to normalcy through gradual control of this infection. The virus infection spread can be prevented only through people's total co-operation. The virus spread can be prevented only if people follow the guidelines as outlined in the awareness campaigns through the media and newspapers and through the public address system street-wise by the District Administration and the Police and Local Administration Departments.

People should wear face mask without fail; they should adhere to social distancing outside the house; when coming back home, they should thoroughly wash their hands with soap; toilets in the house should be cleaned with disinfectant; street toilets should be disinfected often. As a vaccine has not been found to prevent this infection, I affectionately appeal to people to understand that we can return to normalcy only if we follow the procedures announced by the Government.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced more schemes to Namakkal District and is implementing them. Some of the schemes have been completed and are in use; some others are under execution. Following the demand for supply of drinking water to many cities and villages, the drinking water scheme works for Namakkal city are being carried out. These works will be completed in a few months and brought into people's use. Scheme works are afoot for conveying protected water from the Cauvery to Tiruchengode and surrounding places. Funds have been allotted for the Pallipalayam water supply scheme and works are speedily executed. I wish to inform you that schemes for solving the water supply problem of Rasipuram area are under consideration.

I declared open in person the new additional bridge across the Cauvery river to connect Erode and Pallipalayam. The SPB colony railway under bridge has been converted into a railway over-bridge.

Road facilities from Paramathi Velur to Tiruchengode have been provided in a big way in response to the demand that more road facilities should be created in Namakkal District. Likewise, we have converted the Tiruchengode - Namakkal road into a four-lane traffic road. The roads between Tiruchengode and Rasipuram then to Mallikarai and between Namakkal and Mohanur have been widened.

More new roads are to be laid. The Government is taking steps to widen the Tiruchengode - Omalur road via Sankagiri for 4-lane traffic; the Tiruchengode - Erode road via Pallipalayam is also to be newly laid; a flyover to a length of 3.40 km is being set up in that road on a demand from Hon'ble Ministers that flyovers should be constructed wherever the road is narrow. Likewise, steps are being taken to construct a subway at the railway level-crossing on the road to Paper Mill; steps are being taken to widen the Namakkal - Musiri road and Namakkal - Senthamangalam road. Moreover, work on a bypass road to avert the traffic congestion in Namakkal town is about to commence. Land acquisition works are on for laying a bypass road to Tiruchengode town; for Rasipuram bypass road, land has been acquired in one area; works continue to acquire more lands for the bypass.

It is Hon'ble Amma's Government that has created a Government Law College for Namakkal District. For the higher education of students in Senthamangalam where hill residents are more in number, an arts and science college was established and I personally declared open its buildings. I wish to inform you that many works are being carried out for this District.

The Government is taking steps to implement a combined water supply scheme to benefit 724 households in the Panchayat Unions of Mallasamudram, Elachipalayam and Paramathi, at a cost of Rs.250 crore. Tenders have been called for a Rural drinking water supply scheme under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' to be executed at a cost of Rs.19 crore to benefit 146 hamlets in 46 Panchayats in the year 2020-2021.

The required loan assistance has been arranged for women Self Help Groups. In the agriculture sector, a compensation of Rs.141 crore through the crop insurance scheme and a subsidy of Rs.107 crore under the micro-irrigation scheme in four years, have been given to this District's farmers. Also, it is proposed to give about Rs.78 crore in 2020-2021 for micro-irrigation works.

For construction of 1,648 apartments in Namakkal District through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Rs.133.44 crore have been allotted. An allotment of Rs.92.09 crore has been made for construction of apartments in the Municipalities of Tiruchengode and Rasipuram. Schools have been upgraded to enable students of the poor and marginalized families get quality education. In the last 3 years alone, 8 middle schools have been upgraded as high schools and 2 high schools have been upgraded as higher secondary schools.

In this way, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes in Namakkal District. Most of the demands made by Hon'ble Ministers and Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly have been met. I am particularly happy to mention that Hon'ble Amma's Government, which had announced a Government Medical College for Namakkal District, has allotted funds for construction of buildings for the college and works have started on it. I am proud to state that Hon'ble Amma's Government is the only Government that has implemented all the schemes required for the District.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

No let up on the farming front in times of Corona pandemic

Agriculture Department renders massive service to farmers, people

To facilitate the continuance of agricultural activities like cultivation, distribution of agriculture inputs and marketing of produce without any interruption even during the Corona lockdown period, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India issued orders exempting them from restrictions. During this period, agricultural crops were raised in 7.94 lakh acres – paddy in 3.65 lakh acres, millet in 1.57 lakh acres and pulse varieties in 1.03 lakh acres. Moreover, rabi and summer crops were harvested in 7.74 lakh acres.

For carrying out machine harvesting of crops like paddy, groundnut and sesame without any slackness, farmers were advised to make use of the 1,276 farm machines of the farmer-producer committees and to harvest with Corona awareness. Necessary steps were taken for the marketing of the harvested produce without any hassle; action was taken for the procurement of paddy through the 519 direct procurement centres wherever it was needed. Also, for 'kuruvai' cultivation in delta Districts, the required community nurseries were prepared through farmer-producer committees and seedlings distributed to farmers. So far, nursery crop has been raised in 255 acres and transplanted in 8,674 acres.

A free 'Uzhavan e-market' service has been created in the `Uzhavan' mobile app to help farmers to sell their products and for merchants to purchase. Through this service, 318 farmers have so far sold their products. Through the 'Uzhavan e-market', 1.80 lakh kg paddy and millets, 20,500 kg oilseeds, 21,000 kg fruits and 36,000 kg vegetables have been sold. To market the harvested coconut, steps were taken to contact merchants at the national level through the '*Kisan Rath' mobile app*.

Even at the commencement stage of kar/kuruvai/sornawari season and kharif season, prior orders were issued for the distribution of certified seeds for paddy, millets, dhal varieties and oil seeds and the distribution was carried out. To carry out seed sowing activities without any hindrance for paddy, urud dhal crops ('chithirai pattam') and for oil seed crops, 2,486 metric tonnes of seeds were distributed through mobile agriculture extension centres; also, a total of 32,962 metric tonnes of seeds – 21,932 metric tonnes in *Government Agriculture Extension Centres* and 11,030 metric tonnes in private sales outlets – and the required quantity of inputs have been kept in store for timely availability to farmers.

In the interest of farmers, the Government of Tamil Nadu had made arrangements for the sale of fertilizers in primary co-operative societies and in private sales outlets between 8 am. and 12.30 pm. during the lockdown period. Now, the sale time has been extended up to 7 p.m. Considering the difficulties faced by farmers in reaching the fertilizer shops, fertilizers were sold to farmers at their doorstep through mobile fertilizer sales outlets in every district. Chemical fertilizers – 1,12,000 metric tonnes of urea, 63,000 metric tonnes of D.A.P, 54,000 metric tonnes of potash and 1,67,000 metric tonnes of complex fertilizer – have been kept in store for cultivation activities in Tamil Nadu. To help farmers get pesticides to protect their crops, 4,912 pesticide sales centres were kept activated throughout Tamil Nadu.

In these critical times also, the Government of Tamil Nadu had allotted Rs.5.25 crore for controlling the whitefly attack on coconut trees in 25,000 hectares. Steps were taken to expedite the implementation of the sc heme.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had announced that the financial assistance under the *Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana* to farmers for the four months of April to July (totally Rs.2,000), would be released in advance. Accordingly, Rs.8.89 crore was directly credited to the bank accounts of farmers in this lockdown period (April 2020 to till date) and this helped farmers purchase inputs for taking up cultivation.

Arrangements were made jointly by the Agriculture Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the TAFE company, for small and micro farmers to make use of the Massey Ferguson and Eicher tractors and other agricultural machinery at no cost, to carry out their agricultural activities. It was announced that this service would be available for 90 days from 03.04.2020 to June 30, 2020; till now, agricultural activities have been carried out in 98,293 acres of land with 14,540 agriculture machines for 38,950 farmers. Ways and means were devised to make available essential commodities and vegetables, fruits and grocery articles to people through farmer-producer committees in all Districts. So far, 1,352 farmer-producer committees have sold 12,567 metric tonnes of vegetables through Uzhavar Sandhai and vegetable vans. These committees had used 1,383 numbers of farm equipment for agricultural activities and 153 sprayers for cleaning public places with disinfectants. They had also engaged themselves in milk marketing, fodder sale, distribution of 'kabasura kudineer' and production of face mask, among other things. They had also disinfected the Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres and Government Buildings under Village Panchayat.

Officers of the Agriculture Department had ensured uninterrupted movement of agriculture labour and machinery in the Districts and throughout the state. Awareness about following COVID-19 procedures throughout the lockdown period was created among farmers and farm labour.

■

Customer demand fulfilled all over State during pandemic

Horticulture department's actions stabilize prices of fruits, vegetables; prevent loss to farmers

The entire Country and State was detained with lock down due to COVID-19 pandemic, causing severe impact for farmers and consumers. The producers had issues on managing the peak harvest season, mobilizing and marketing their produces. Blockages to transport routes, restricted movements and quarantine measures to farmers and their restricted access to markets resulted in curbing their productive capacities and hindering them from selling their produce. Since the horticulture produces such as fruits and vegetables are perishable in nature, a timely reach of those produces to the consumers is mandatory. There was a total restriction on conduct of marriages, functions and Temple festivals. Due to this, flower growers were stranded and could not sell their produce.

The consumers faced difficulties in acquiring their daily needs and availability of fruits and vegetables remained restricted. There was huge intimidation on price hike and availability. The unexpected lockdown had an enormous impact on entire supply chain of the Horticulture produces.

Thus various interventions and initiatives had been taken up both at the farm gate level in various Districts and at the consumer level in rural and urban areas, through Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops.

Facilitating mobilization of produce from farmer to markets:

Due to hindrance in transport, unavailability of vehicles, breakage in supply chain and traders weren't available to mobilize the farm produce, the Horticulture officials issued vehicle passes for easy movement of produces from farmers to consumers.

Totally 38,026 vehicle passes were issued, through which 2.09 lakh Metric Tonnes of vegetables and fruits were mobilized within and between Districts and States 77,783 Metric Tonnes of fruits and vegetables were transported to other States viz., Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Retail outlets:

Totally 55 Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency (TANHODA) retail outlets were operating on regular basis all over Tamil Nadu. During this crisis, these outlets continue to cater the needs of consumer by procuring produces directly from the farmers, Farmers Interest Groups (FIG), Farmer Producer Group (FPG) and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) formed by Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops.

45 MT of vegetables were distributed through retail outlets in and around the urban cluster.

Mobile outlets:

As the people were advised to stay indoors and farmers could not reach the markets, the mobile retail vehicles were put into operation. All the wards in Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats were allotted with TANHODA mobile retail vehicles to ensure the availability of fruits and vegetable in the vicinity of the consumer.

The FIG/FPGs were engaged in direct procurement and sale of horticulture produce through which 10,315 Metric Tonnes of vegetables have been sold through mobile outlets. All the departmental vehicles and officials were also entrusted with mobile vending operation.

1,468 Metric Tonnes of horticulture produce from the farmers were mobilized to nearby cities and residential hubs through TANHODA mobile outlets.

Online Sales:

Since all the people were advised to stay home, there was no possibilities for the elderly people to come out and absence of neighbourhood retail activities urge the need for an online platform for purchase of fruits and vegetables. Thus, as a need driven activity, existing E-thottam website was utilized as online platform for sale of fruits and vegetables which aids in connecting

the consumers at their door steps by fulfilling their daily dietary needs. Totally four distribution centres at Guindy, Semmozhi poonga, Madhavaram and Chitlapakkam were operated.

405 Metric Tonnes of Horticulture produce were procured directly from farmers and delivered to consumer through 20,826 online orders in E-thottam portal, (252 Metric Tonnes of vegetables and 153 Metric Tonnes of fruits)

As the population and the impact were high in the urban cluster and there was no nearby production point, E-thottam served as a bridge for the producer to sell and consumer to get the produce. Since the price of the produce was published online, it acted as a benchmark for other players in the market and hence the price of the produce was maintained in a stable level.

Subsequently the E-thottam online deliveries were linked with Indian Postal Department and the online food delivery platforms - Zomato, Dunzo and Swiggy for easy operation.

Wholesale fruit market:

Koyambedu market was closed on identification of positive COVID-19 cases in the market and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has opened a new temporary wholesale fruit market at Madhavaram bus stand.

Initially traders were hesitant to move their produce to fruits market, and in order to make the fruit market operational, as requested, the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops and TANHODA has taken over ten shops of temporary fruit market at Madhavaram and started mobilizing fruits from farmers. On seeing the movement of fruits and vegetables in the temporary fruit market, other traders were gradually coming to new fruit market and thus the market was ensured with full fledged operation 130 Metric Tonnes of fruits were mobilized directly from farmers and NAFED and sold to semi-wholesaler, wholesaler and retailer at the cost price.

Wholesale vegetable market:

Subsequent to the closure of the vegetable market at Koyambedu, the alternate market was identified at Thirumazhisai by CMDA. In the transitional period no wholesale vegetable market was there for a week's time to cater the need of Chennai consumers. The vegetables were mobilized from all the Districts to temporary wholesale market established at the premises of Horticulture Park at Madhavaram and sold out to semi-wholesalers and retailers.

315 Metric Tonnes of vegetables were mobilized and sold to semi-wholesalers, wholesalers, retailers and apartment dwellers at the cost price.

Usage of vehicles for mobilization of produce:

The multipurpose vehicles from Agricultural Engineering Department and the available vehicles of the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops were used as logistics vehicles, for mobilization of produce.

Distribution of Vegetable kits

Vegetables were procured directly from beneficiaries of Horticulture schemes such as Farmer Interest Groups and Farmer Producer Organization and converted into vegetable kit worth Rs.100 and were distributed all over the state by the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops Officials. During the COVID-19 pandemic 1.26 lakh Metric Tonnes of vegetables were distributed through 2.75 crore vegetable kit.

Minor vegetables:

Through the above measures most of the difficulties of the farmers in selling the produces were addressed. Even the produce which are not having sufficient demand with consumers such as ash gourd, pumpkin, yam, cabbage, capsicum, etc., were also procured by TANHODA in order to provide basic support to the producers.

Processing and Value addition :

To tackle the loss to flower growers, excess flowers were sent for concrete extraction unit. So far 1,417 Metric Tonnes of jasmine flowers were sent for extraction unit and 1,154 Metric Tonnes of Mangoes was sent for processing industries.

The above interventions of Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops in mobilizing and marketing of fruits and vegetables aided in price stabilization, prevented loss to the farmers by ensuring their livelihood and fulfilled the consumer's demand all over the State. ■

Tamilarasu magazine's HISTORY

In late 1946, magazines like 'Madras Information' started coming out from the Department of Information and Publicity of the then Government of Chennai Presidency with the good intention of informing the people of the various tasks done in Government Departments. "Madras Information" came out in the languages of Telugu, Canarese and Malayalam as major parts of the States where these languages were spoken were in the Chennai Presidency.

After India's Independence in August, 1947, State re-organization took place on linguistic basis and the States of Andhra, Karnataka and Kerala were formed out of the Chennai Presidency. From November 1, 1956 the State with Tamil as the predominant language came to be known as Chennai State. During that time, Congress ruled the State and it continued up to the year 1967. At that period also, the Department of Information and Publicity continued to function on behalf of the Government of Chennai State. Many magazines were published on behalf of the Government to convey to people the activities of the various Departments. As many as 18 magazines were published for the various Departments. They included 'Maezhi selvam' from the Department of Agriculture, 'Grama Nalam' and later 'Seerani' (Rural Development Department), 'Arogya Margam' (Health Department), 'Bagyalakshmi' (Social Welfare Department), 'Thirukovil' (Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department), 'Madras Information' (Information) and 'Ind-Com' (Industries and Commerce Department).

These magazines accorded primacy to their particular Department's achievements. But, it came to be known that the contents in them did not reach the people appropriately. At that time a proposal was in incubation that all these magazines should be integrated into one official magazine of the Government. The Government also desired to implement many schemes to activate the Information and Publicity Department with more efficiency and quickness than before. The magazines of the various departments were coalesced into one magazine of the Department of Information and Publicity with the name 'Tamilarasu', brought out both in Tamil and English languages and now it has completed its Golden Jubilee of service.

Tamilarasu

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** addressed the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 15.09.2020 under Rule 110 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, on the Chief Minister's Help Desk and Integrated Grievance Redressal Management System.

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